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Palestinian Affairs

The delegation to the multilateral talks scheduled to open on 28 January departed for Moscow on 27 January, MENA reported. The team's departure followed the PLO's sanctioning of Palestinian attendance at the talks, Jerusalem radio noted. Once in Moscow, the delegates are expected to meet with U.S. and Russian officials in Moscow over the issue of including Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the diaspora in the delegation.

Jordan

The delegation to the multilateral talks led by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir left Amman for Moscow on 26 January, Amman radio reported.

Israel

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed a "compromise" on the loan guarantees issue, whereby Israel would complete the settlements already under construction in the territories but desist from any fresh housing starts, Jerusalem radio reported. In an initial response to the proposal, political sources cited by Tel Aviv radio said Israel could not "publicly" agree to the U.S. offer with a "crucial" no-confidence vote in the Knesset only two days away and with less than a month before the Likud Central Committee elects the party's candidate for prime minister. In another development, authorities evicted twenty-two families from a settlement they had established south of the Dead Sea and "just over the border" with Jordan, Jerusalem radio noted.

Libya-Iran

In the event of a U.S. attack on its territory, Libya will "arm Arab masses and Islamic movements to counter the U.S. and its allies," a member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council stated, according to IRNA. Speaking at a press conference during his official visit to Tehran, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud also said that UN Resolution 731 was "unjust," charging that it contradicted international regulations and the UN Charter.

Libya

Tripoli protested a statement by a German Government spokesman alleging that a consignment of U.S.-originated nuclear materials seized in Frankfurt was destined for Libya, JANA reported. The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation summoned the German ambassador to express "deep astonishment" at the allegations and termed the matter "a total fabrication by Western intelligence to tarnish the reputation of the Jamahiriyah," JANA added.

Algeria

Security forces opened fire on worshipers gathered for Friday prayers at the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued District on 24 January, Algiers radio reported. The radio provided no details on casualties. In another development, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appointed Othmani Aissani, deputy chairman of the party's National Executive Bureau, to succeed arrested party leader Abdelkader Hachani as FIS chairman. Meanwhile, FIS officials denied foreign news agency reports that authorities had placed Aissani under arrest.

Mauritania

President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was reelected today in the first round of national elections, the president's campaign staff told AFP. Opposition officials rejected the results, and international observers found "administrative errors" in the way the election was organized, Algiers television noted. President Taya won 62.6 percent of the vote, while principal opponent Ahmed Ould Daddah garnered 32.9 percent, according to the television. Meanwhile, a curfew was clamped on Nouakchott following post-election violence that left at least three dead. A second round of elections was not "necessary," the president's campaign staff told AFP.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Levi Expects 'Results' From Talks

TA2701064592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan in Moscow—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, good morning. Do you expect practical results from the Moscow conference scheduled to open here tomorrow morning? What is the meaning of Boris Yeltsin's absence from the conference? He had been scheduled to deliver the opening speech on behalf of Russia, but it now appears that he will not attend the conference.

[Levi] Good morning. I expect this conference to yield results. Of course, this does not only depend on Israel. Israel has done its homework, drafted proposals, presented material, and will continue to present material pertaining to various spheres of cooperation in order to strengthen the peace process.

As for Yeltsin, this is indeed bizarre and a mystery; it is the question everybody, including us, is asking. He was supposed to open the conference, but it has now been announced that he will not. He was also scheduled to meet with various foreign ministers, but these meetings have now been canceled. This is incomprehensible. Some say he has been taken ill; others make all sorts of speculations. Whatever the case may be, we should wait and see.

[Golan] Sir, what will the Israeli delegation do if the Palestinians ultimately show up with a delegation that includes representatives of the so-called Palestinian diaspora and not just with those people we agreed to sit with in the peace talks in and following Madrid?

[Levi] Of course, we will not allow any deviation whatsoever from what has been agreed, from the format in Madrid. We will be on the alert. We will talk to our American friends and reiterate our known and unequivocal position; we will simply not allow it. Furthermore, whoever allows such a development will be throwing a monkey wrench into the peace process. As far as I know, the Americans and the Russians made it unequivocally clear to the Palestinians last night that they will not allow any change—and we will definitely insist on it.

[Golan] Sir, do you expect to hold any interesting meetings here with the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain; with all those people who, for the first time in history, are attending a conference in which Israel is also taking part to discuss peace and the solution of common problems in the Middle East?

[Levi] The meeting is a unique event on its own merit. Countries that do not share a border with us will be meeting us here, albeit in the plenum, to discuss common issues and deliberate on various ideas. This will not be simple. After all, each one has its own agenda to deal with first and will only later get down to the real business, but we are experienced in such matters. If the opportunity arises, I will gladly hold such meetings, but this is not the goal of the gathering in Moscow.

I think we should see the real meaning of this development, which is that the taboo regarding Israel has been broken. They are now meeting with Israel to discuss cooperation and ideas beneficial to the entire region, rather than dealing with it in an international tribunal. Israel will be tested by its powers of persuasion, its contribution, and its faith in its own ability to make a contribution. Indeed, we can make a contribution. Of course, the burden of proof lies with the other side as well. However, we should analyze the situation as it is. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the Maghreb countries will be hearing Israel's position firsthand; they will either respond or make their own proposals; they will split into working teams to deliberate on those proposals—made by them, us, and others—in order to strengthen the steps leading to peace, build trust, and avoid misunderstandings, adversities, and dangers. Their desire to tread this path will be put to the test, of course, but they are willing to show up and drop their old concept of waiting until the bilateral talks end, peace is attained, and then decide on their position. They have now changed their position, and on the road to peace they are prepared to talk, converse about common problems, and examine initial tentative steps.

For our part, of course, we would like to make up for lost time and make speedy progress, but little steps are also significant en route to breaking the psychological barrier that divided us—the barrier of hostility which has been nurtured for decades—and, through this window, start looking at reality as we would like it to be: an end to the misery and to war and an era of cooperation. This should not be only the privilege of the Europeans. If everybody behaves wisely, I think that as far as Israel is concerned, this meeting will be the triumph of a correct policy.

Egyptian Delegation Arrives in Moscow

NC2601213192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Our radio team in Moscow has reported that Egypt's delegation, led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, arrived in Moscow this evening to attend the multilateral negotiations, which will begin there on Tuesday.

In an arrival statement, Musa said that the meetings represent another message to the Israeli Government that the peace process is genuine and that Israel must respond seriously.

Musa was asked about the absence of Syria and Lebanon. We are not in Moscow to hold negotiations, he answered, but to lay down the procedural measures for the peace process. He said there is enough time for all parties to participate. There is also enough time for Israel to

change its policies and measures in the occupied territories and to stop everything obstructing the settlement process, Musa added. He went on to say that Israel must stop its procrastination in bilateral negotiations so that a real chance will be made available for all parties to participate in the peace process with determination, assurance, and confidence.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Delegation Departs for Moscow 27 Jan

NC2701113092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Tunis, 27 Jan (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources have said that a Palestinian delegation including Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, both members of the PLO Executive Committee, left for Moscow today.

The PLO Executive Committee held a six-hour meeting last night to discuss the Palestinian decision regarding participation in the Moscow negotiations. No official statement has been issued on the nature of the decision.

PLO Executive Committee sources are being secretive about the nature of the decision the committee has made regarding participation in the multilateral talks; they are waiting for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to announce it himself as it contains "surprises."

It seems that the Palestinian leadership has agreed to participate in the Moscow negotiations, but with a Palestinian delegation whose members are different from those who participated in the Madrid conference and Washington talks, since the Palestinian delegation to the Moscow talks includes Palestinians from Jerusalem and outside the occupied territories.

It has not been ruled out that this delegation will get to Moscow before the multilateral talks start if the PLO delegation, which includes 'Abd-Rabbuh and Najjab, is included in the advisory delegation to the negotiating delegation.

'Abd-al-Shafi Not To Participate

JN2701063192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed to our radio that the PLO has decided to participate in the multilateral talks scheduled to be held in Moscow tomorrow.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Palestinian delegation will leave Amman today, Monday, for the Russian capital. However, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, will not participate in the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships were in direct contact all the day yesterday to assess the situation regarding participation in the multilateral talks.

Our radio learned from informed sources that Jordan's monarch King Husayn and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir held several contacts with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday.

It is worth mentioning that Jordan has decided to participate in the multilateral talks, and its delegation is currently in Moscow.

Delegates Named

NC2701143392 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, Jan 27 (AFP)—A Palestinian delegation from the Israeli-occupied territories left here Monday for Moscow where they are expected to argue for comprehensive Palestinian representation at multilateral Middle East talks.

The team grouped Hanan 'Ashrawi, Zahirah Kamal, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Zakariya al-Agha and Ghassan al-Khatib and was seen off at the airport by the Soviet ambassador, correspondents said.

Arab sources in Moscow had earlier said Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah were also expected in the Russian capital.

In addition, sources at Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Tunis reported that two members of the PLO executive committee, Sulayman al-Najjab and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, were travelling to Moscow.

Together with the residents of the occupied territories, they are to meet U.S. and Russian officials, the co-sponsors of the talks, "to discuss the details of Palestinian participation," according to PLO spokesman in Moscow Musa Mubarak.

The Palestinians are seeking broad-based representation at the multilateral negotiations, set to open in Moscow Tuesday, including representatives from the territories, east Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora.

But Israel insists that Palestinian participation be limited to inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

DFLP's Hawatimah Urges Arab Coordination

JN2701124492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jan 92 pp 28, 23

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has emphasized the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue to correct the march and to work for inter-Arab

coordination so as not to entrench the Palestinian-Arab division on the multilateral negotiations.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y on arrival in Amman last night, Hawatimah said: We have done a lot toward cooperation with our brothers in Jordan and we are determined to enhance and develop this endeavor so as to correct the course of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

He stressed that the Arab division is clear and that the Marrakech meeting of the Arab foreign ministers failed to eliminate this division that would lead to wasting what remains of the joint pan-Arab interest, which points to the normalization of relations with Israel, settling refugees, regional Arab-Israeli cooperation, particularly among Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. This takes place at a time when land is occupied and the settlements and threat of expansion and transfer continue with all the implied new fateful dangers of swallowing up the Palestinian land, the Golan heights, and south Lebanon, and placing Jordan under the pressure of settling the Palestinians in it.

He said: The present stage necessitates that we all work relentlessly for inter-Arab reconciliation and for adopting the joint Arab interest toward the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

He added: It is not acceptable that the Arab countries show readiness for the multilateral negotiations with Israel and at the same time refrain from multilateral negotiations among themselves to return inter-Arab relations to a condition that guarantees the joint higher interests in the negotiations with Israel and secures the full implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy through withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, resolving the problem of refugees in accordance with the international resolutions which reject settlement and expansion at the expense of the occupied territories, and the constant threat to Jordan, Lebanon, and other neighboring Arab countries.

Hawatimah said: Now, on the eve of the multilateral conference, we have to adhere to the representation of the Palestinian people with a unified delegation whose reference is the PLO, in order to discuss the Palestine question from all its aspects, foremost of which is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the return of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Hawatimah said: There is now a third golden opportunity to correct the course of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. The first opportunity was if the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council had been adhered to, and if there had been insistence on a unified delegation that represents the Palestinian people inside, in the diaspora, and in Jerusalem, and on halting settlement with the start of the negotiations. The second was when the Security Council resolution on eliminating the deportation decision was made. The departure to Washington should have been delayed until the Security Council resolution is implemented.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Views Multilateral Talks

JN2401211192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in arabic 1935 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded and carried within the "Today's Guest" program]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Sha'th, news agency reports this morning quoted SANA as saying that the Palestinians concur with the Syrian assessment of the regional [multilateral] talks being detrimental to Arab interests. Is this to say that the Palestinians have definitely decided not to join the talks and, if so, under what conditions will the Palestinians go to the multilateral talks?

[Sha'th] Palestinian conditions for attending the multilateral talks can be summed up in the following points. The first has to do with Palestinian representation. We insist that a proper Palestinian delegation represent Palestine—including Jerusalem and the diaspora—at these talks, since the items to be addressed at the multilateral stage will be the ones to be discussed two years into the transitional period; that is, those bearing on the final status [of the occupied territory]. The U.S. letter of assurances provided for a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside of Palestine, including Jerusalem, taking part in this stage. We, therefore, believe that Palestinians must be fully represented in these talks. Such topics as the refugees, water, and economic cooperation will arise. It is inconceivable that Palestinians in the diaspora and Jerusalem be denied a say on all of these topics. That was the first set of conditions.

The second set has to do with the chances these multilateral talks have for success. We would have liked for the bilateral talks to have made fair and tangible progress in terms of the territory under discussion and the Palestinian rights and demands resting on the land-for-peace slogan—the bottom line of all of these negotiations. Unfortunately, the bilateral talks have not made any headway to support the prognosis of successful multilateral talks. I think that this is the whole point of Syria's objection to moving to the multilateral stage.

Along with these conditions, there is one extremely important question, which the next few days may answer: How is the United States going to handle the loan guarantees, and how will this impact on the cancerous settlement drive in our occupied land? I, therefore, think that if the United States approves the loan guarantees without linkage to a halt to settlement activity, then the entire peace process will be scuttled and attendance at the multilateral talks will be rendered an impossibility. On the other hand, the picture will be

quite different if the United States decides to cancel or to put off these guarantees, or if somehow we see a cessation of settlement activity.

Then, there is the overall Arab position. I think that the meetings held in Damascus, Cairo, and Morocco all set out to establish an Arab position on these negotiations. The decision whether to go or not to go the the Moscow talks will, in the end, be up to the PLO.

[Reporter] Then, Dr. Sha'th, there are two kinds of conditions—the condition on the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the outcome of the bilateral talks, and the U.S. loan guarantees, on the one hand, and coordination among the Arab parties on the other. If the first condition is met—full Palestinian participation in the delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories—will this lead to reducing the importance of the other condition, and can the purely Palestinian condition be given preponderance over the condition of inter-Arab coordination?

[Sha'th] I cannot...

[Reporter, interrupting] I mean if Tel Aviv and Washington accepted a Palestinian delegation made up of members from inside and outside the occupied territories, will that be enough to convince Palestine to attend the conference?

[Sha'th] The matter is very difficult and complicated. It is difficult to say that other conditions can be canceled if one condition is met. For example, if they meet all the conditions pertaining to representation and then give loan guarantees that will lead to a continuation of settlement activities, then this will not be enough reason to enter into such conferences. One must see how many conditions, or to what degree each of these conditions in each of the three categories you mentioned, have been met. This will be the topic of discussion in the next few days within the PLO Executive Committee. It will have to assess the degree of accomplishment in each of these categories and the kind of guarantees that will be given against any violations, and then make the decision.

[Reporter] Do you think that there will be an improvement in Arab coordination over the peace talks?

[Sha'th] The effectiveness of Arab coordination is still limited. True, there were positive signs such as the Arab delegations' decision to postpone [their departure to Washington] for one week following Israel's deportation of our struggling Palestinian brothers from inside the occupied territories. In the previous round held in Washington, there was full coordination on when to start and end and there was harmony. But, apart from that, we are still facing great difficulty in coordinating positions. Coordination should not be limited to the four countries now involved in the negotiations. Coordination must also include the Arab states not neighboring Israel. Egypt is very important, Saudi Arabia is very important, the Gulf and the Maghreb states are all important. There is still no coordination on that level yet. When we talk about coordination, we should make that coordination cover a broader group of Arab states. This will give the Palestinian and the Arab negotiator the ability to achieve something under this difficult condition through which the negotiations are passing.

[Reporter] Is it possible to accept attendance at the Moscow conference without these conditions if Washington announces that it is a mere preparatory framework?

[Sha'th] In fact, we received the full invitation letter today, and we are studying it. I say that the issue is not only that of a preparatory framework. The talk about a preparatory framework or an organizational process is something which undoubtedly facilitates decisionmaking. However, one should look at what follows this process. During the negotiations held in Washington between the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. Administration on the conditions pertaining to Palestinian representation, discussion dealt several times with the organizational form proposed for these negotiations following Moscow [talks]. Therefore, I believe that one should not only look at this meeting, but also at the results which will reflect on the form of action during future meetings. Until now, this form has been ambiguous and unclear. It would be better for America, for example, along with the Russian side, to further clarify what will happen after the Moscow meeting. The decision should include Moscow and what comes after Moscow. This is because the decision on participation will not affect only the Moscow meeting, but following meetings as well.

[Reporter] Dr. Sha'th, don't you see that there are two Arab groups? There is the group which includes the adjacent states, the states that are direct parties to the conflict, and there is the group of the states that are indirect parties to the conflict. The indirect parties to the conflict seem to be getting ready to participate in the Moscow conference, and the position of the other states—Palestine, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—is almost settled on this issue. Do you believe that there is a possibility that the other states will participate in the Moscow conference in the absence of the states which are directly involved?

[Sha'th] Well, this is the major difficulty with regard to Arab coordination which I referred to in a previous question. We must view Arab coordination as one bloc. In fact, the two groups cannot be separated from each other. Separation between the two groups will weaken the negotiating ability of the Arab negotiator. This issue applies to the Moscow talks just as it applies to the bilateral talks. So far, we are suffering from an Arab siege on Palestine and Jordan. How can these negotiations continue without settling the issue of Arab reconciliation completely, and without the participation of these states in coordination at the bilateral and multilateral talks? This is exactly what we want.

[Reporter] Yes. Of course, you have noticed that China's acceptance to attend the Moscow conference has coincided with the resumption of relations with Tel Aviv. Where does the PLO's demand for resuming dialogue with Washington now stand?

[Sha'th] In fact, this demand continues and is still in effect, and we believe that it is one of the conditions for the success of the process of negotiation. This demand does not belittle our regret about dragging all these states to resume relations with Israel without Israel making any true concessions to the Palestinian and Arab sides. The delay in the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue disturbs us and makes it difficult for the process to succeed. However, we are also not satisfied with this quick resumption of relations with Israel without Israel giving anything to prove the minimum level of its desire for peace.

[Reporter] Dr. Sha'th, thank you.

Palestinian Factions Meet in Damascus

JN2601104492 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0949 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinian resistance factions—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Palestinian National Liberation Front-Fatah, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-al-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front—are currently meeting at the headquarters of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Damascus.

Our correspondent has learned that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine backed holding the Damascus meeting but was unable to attend.

Our correspondent in Damascus has sent us the following statements by Khalid al-Fahum, [former] PNC speaker and president of the Palestinian National Salvation Front:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker and president of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, could you please tell us about the nature of the meeting the front is holding today?

[Al-Fahum] A meeting of the factions of the Salvation Front, and all resistance factions, is held today in light of the serious and critical stage the Palestine question is experiencing. Everybody is aware that in two days, on 28 January, a multilateral meeting will be held in Moscow to discuss issues that mean normalizing relations with Israel, which still occupies Arab land and rejects the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; namely, their right to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state. Therefore, this meeting to be held in Moscow seeks to liquidate the Palestine question, and is a big step in this direction, because it seeks to normalize relations with the enemy which still occupies the land, refuses to make concessions, and continues settlement building and deportations. For all this, the resistance factions decided to meet in Damascus to adopt practical measures to reject the multilateral conference, and to call on all Arab countries not to attend it because it is against the interest of the people of Palestine, the Palestine question, and the Arab nation.

[Reporter] How do you assess Palestinian participation in these negotiations [word indistinct] this invitation?

[Al-Fahum] So far, I do not have confirmed information concerning participation by the PLO or its leadership. I do not have confirmed information.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Al-Fahum] You are welcome. [end recording]

Urge PLO Boycott of Moscow Talks

JN2601205192 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1918 GMT 26 Jan 92

["Full text" of "a political statement issued after an expanded meeting for Palestinian resistance factions and figures" in Damascus on 26 January; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

So lose not heart, nor call for peace; for ye must gain mastery, and God is with you. In truth spoke God. O masses of our nation: Noting the numerous threats surrounding our national, pan-Arab, and Islamic cause; standing at a serious crossroads and an important and fateful turning point in the march of our struggle and jihad against attempts to strike at this struggle and harm this people by deleting their identity and national, pan-Arab, and Islamic affiliation and dissipating their existence; and realizing that the American-Zionist settlement conspiracy is entering a serious stage called the third stage of the American-Zionist settlement process, we, in a spirit of national, pan-Arab, and Islamic spirit, paused to discuss the implications of the this stage on the future of our people and nation.

The so-called third stage, the stage of the multilateral talks, is aimed at entrenching and legitimizing the existence of the Zionist entity at the expense of the existence of our Palestinian people, who have undisputed legitimate rights to their homeland, land, and identity.

The statement continues: Therefore, we reject these talks because of their threat to the interests of the Palestinian people, because they deflect the inalienable, historical rights of the Palestinian people to their full homeland, and because they call for normalization between the usurper entity and the Arab and Islamic countries, with a view to liquidating the conflict and turning it into merely a dispute over the issues of refugees and resettlement, and to abandoning the Palestine question as the essence of the Arab- Zionist conflict. Our people have

made massive sacrifices to preserve their identity against obliteration and dissipation, and to promote this identity through a rarely-matched struggle. Entering this stage gives the Zionist enemy, on a golden plater and under cover of Arab and international participation, what it failed to obtain through war. Based on this, therefore:

1. We greet the steadfastness of our people and kinsfolk in the occupied homeland and call for the continuation and support of the blessed popular intifadah in Palestine to bolster national unity at home and abroad and to confront the challenges and threats to our people. We call for cooperation and action by all national and Islamic factions to resist the occupation.

2. We call on the PLO leadership to boycott this conference because its participation would help make the mentioned threats a reality on the ground, and because its participation would provide cover for the Arab and Islamic countries that will attend the conference.

3. We reiterate the need for the PLO to withdraw its participation in the U.S.-Zionist settlement process and to declare the withdrawal of the Palestinian delegation from the negotiations.

4. We value the Syrian Arab stand of boycotting this conference, and insisting on the recognition of the rights of our nation and people to the land, and to national and pan-Arab dignity. We also value Lebanon's stand rejecting to participate in this conference. We praise the stands of the Arab and Islamic countries which refuse to leave for this conference from the premise of their concern over the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic constants. We call for the mobilization of potentials on the basis of these stands to confront the liquidatory conspiracies.

5. While we denounce the acceptance of some Arab and Islamic countries to attend this conference, we call on them to give up this stand. Otherwise, they will have to assume a historic responsibility toward the relinquishment of the rights of our people and nation.

6. While we view with gravity the attempts to foment sedition in the ranks of our people, to force them to fight one another, and divert their attention from our conflict with the enemy, we call on all the loyal factions and forces of our people to be alert and cautious, to confront these attempts, and to reaffirm our national unity on the basis of safeguarding the intifadah and escalating it against the Zionist occupier.

The political statement issued by the expanded meeting of the Palestinian resistance factions and figures added: The onslaught against our people and against our Arab and Islamic nation makes us dutybound to confront it with all methods and ward off its dangers. From this premise, we decided the following:

a. We call for a general strike in the occupied homeland on the day the Moscow conference convenes.

b. We call on our people in Palestine and the diaspora to express their stands rejecting this liquidatory conspiracy and to enhance their glorious intifadah against the usurper enemy through further cohesion and solidarity and the dealing of painful blows against the enemy.

c. We call on our Arab and Islamic nation to confront this conspiracy with all available means, to stage demonstrations and sits-in and to proclaim explicit stands in support for the legitimate rights of our people and nation.

The statement was signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, the Islamic Resistance Movement- Hamas, the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-al-Sa'iqah Forces, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, The Palestinian national Liberation Movement-Fatah, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front. [Dated] 26 January 1992.

Paper Details Documents on Interim Government

TA2401193292 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jan 92 p 3

["Summary of a Palestinian report on the results of the Washington talks"]

[Text] Washington—The Palestinian delegation in the bilateral negotiations underscored its refusal to recognize Israel's annexation of Jerusalem, which is an integral part of the territories occupied in 1967. The delegation also stated that the Palestinian-Israeli track is not an extension of Camp David but relies on Palestinian and international legitimacy.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, addressed Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, and said: I speak on behalf of people who have rights and aspirations. We are determined to defend the Palestinian people's rights in these negotiations. The PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate leadership, which epitomized international legitimacy by its peace initiative of November 1988. Our participation in the talks falls within this context.

This came in a report prepared by the PLO's Pan-Arab and International Relations Department about the results of the second round of the Washington negotiations.

The report says that two documents were submitted to the Israeli delegation. The documents called for placing the settlements issue on the current agenda of the peace talks, since settlement activity is incompatible with the objective of setting up an Interim Palestinian Government [IPG] in the occupied territories. The documents noted that settlement activity hinders the achievement of this objective for the following reasons:

1. It adversely affects the demographic ingredients for setting up an IPG, particularly since settlement activity utilizes the land and the existing natural resources in the occupied territories.

2. It creates a fait accompli that seeks to double the number of settlers in the occupied territories.

3. It destroys the bases contained in the letter of invitation for participation in the peace talks, which stipulated that the future of the occupied territories will be determined through peace negotiations.

The two documents stressed the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, implementation of Security Council Resolution 181, the refugees' right to repatriation on the basis of Security Council Resolution 194, Israeli withdrawal according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and international recognition of the independent Palestinian state declared in 1988.

The two documents also underscored the legal and geographic basis of the territories occupied in 1967, that is, they were occupied by force after Security Council Resolution 181, and called for setting up a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories—the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The documents emphasized that settlement activity and confiscation of land contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention and the principle on which the negotiating process is based and called for an immediate halt to settlement activity.

The documents stated that the interim stage is a stage for preparing total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, not something less than the right to self- determination. The documents called for the return of the 1967 refugees and the deportees and the immediate implementation of Security Council Resolution 194. The documents affirmed that the search for an interim solution requires the freezing of settlement activity and ending the confiscation of land.

The two documents emphasized the need to undertake transitional arrangements that will lead to the transfer of power from the military authorities and the Civil Administration to the IPG. These arrangements include:

A. Israel must halt its settlement activities in all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

B. Israel must announce the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention on all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

C. Providing international protection to all Palestinians in the occupied territories.

2. [Numbers as published] Holding of elections to choose the members of the Palestinian government.

3. Implementing the transitional phase.

4. Withdrawal of Israeli military and civilian authorities from the occupied territories.

5. Withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

6. Defining the shape of the Palestinian government.

7. Defining the judicial authorities in the Palestinian government.

8. Defining the task and responsibilities of the Palestinian government.

9. Setting up security arrangements.

10. Establishing a mechanism to monitor the implementation of decisions.

The two documents noted that the aim of the transitional arrangements should be the transfer of power from the Israeli authorities to the IPG, which will maintain this power until agreement is reached over the final status of the Palestinian territories.

The two documents referred to the characteristics of the Palestinian government, which included:

1. The transitional arrangements are permanent and will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian government.

2. The transitional arrangements must apply to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. The Palestinian government will impose its sovereignty over all the occupied territories, their natural resources, their airspace and territorial waters, and the population.

3. Israel and the Palestinian government will be committed to implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

4. The Palestinian government will be recognized as a valid legitimate authority with elected members.

5. The power and responsibilities of the Israeli military and civilian authorities will be transferred to the Palestinian government.

6. The Palestinian government will be composed of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The Makeup of the Palestinian Government [subhead]

A. The legislative power will consist of 180 representatives elected by the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

B. The executive power will consist of 20 members who will be appointed by the head of the executive power.

C. The judicial power will be composed of judicial courts that will enjoy total independence.

The Steps for Forming the Government [subhead]

A. Elections will be held for choosing members of the legislative assembly. The residents of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, as well as deportees who were deported by the Israeli authorities since 1967

and political detainees will take part in these elections after their release. The elections will be supervised by an international authority.

B. The power and responsibilities of the Israeli military and civilian authorities will be transferred to the Palestinian government. This will coincide with the withdrawal of the Israeli authorities.

C. The Israeli forces will withdraw from all populated areas immediately before the elections. Agreement will be reached on the completion of their withdrawal in phases.

The report says that the Israeli position was so negative that it denied the existence of the Palestinian people or any violation of their rights. The Israeli delegation stated that the Fourth Geneva Convention is not applicable to the Palestinian territories because, according to their allegation, these territories are not occupied!

The report says: The Israeli position is still hostile to our people and rights. Its intransigence stems from the shift in the balance of forces in the region and the world, but this will not induce us to pull out of the talks, because when we went to the talks we were well aware of this. We knew that we were waging one of our political battles and that our political negotiating position was stronger because it relies on international legitimacy and broad international support.

The report adds: The good performance and the significant media and political advantage of our delegation in the Washington talks do not represent historic achievements but are only the first steps—not fundamental but significant steps. We should not entertain illusions.

The report stressed that the negotiating process will be resumed between 10 and 23 February and that no agreement on the venue had been reached. All the Arab delegations prefer to keep the talks in Washington until progress is achieved, but they do not object to the talks being held in Europe, whereas the Israeli side is trying to transfer the talks from the U.S. capital.

The report referred to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and said: This coordination was very positive. The Jordanian brothers supported all our positions in their negotiating track. They stressed the need of halting settlement activity and implementing Security Council Resolution 242. This established a unified political stance vis-a-vis the Israeli negotiator. Moreover, coordination among the Arab delegations, in a spirit of brotherhood and responsibility, established a unity in positions and performance, so that the Israeli negotiator could not engage in prevarications and evasions.

On the stance regarding the multilateral conference, the report said that the Palestinian delegation in Washington and the brothers in Jerusalem refused to receive the invitation relating to Palestinian participation because this invitation calls for a Palestinian representation similar to that in Madrid. The report said that the PLO is eager to take part in this conference because it will discuss issues that concern the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, not only Palestinians under occupation, such as the issues of the refugees, human resources, and the economy.

The report added that the Palestinian delegation, which met with U.S. State Department officials Kurtzer and Miller, called for modifying the formula of Palestinian participation so that the Palestinian delegation would include personalities from inside and outside the occupied territories as well as Jerusalem, within the framework of the joint delegation.

This delegation included Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Anis al-Qasim, Dr. Rashid al-Khalidi, and George Salim. The delegation said that Israeli objection to modifying the participation formula is not realistic because Israel participates in many international conferences with PLO presence. Moreover, insistence on the Madrid formula will have an adverse effect not only on the participation of the Palestinian delegation but also of a number of Arab countries.

U.S. Threats Against Libya 'Herald War'

LD2401221692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the vivid scene emanating from the heightening of the American threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah following the accusation that the latter was involved in the crash of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, and the subsequent practical measures which were taken through the UN Security Council, reminds us of those rites which preceded the 30-country-strong aggression against Iraq.

Such a combination of events suggests the existence of a prepared American plan of aggression against Libya, a plan which is aimed at deepening the feeling of defeat in the Arab scene and at preventing the Arab nation from even thinking of relying upon its own resources to change the man of the new world order, drawn up by Washington following the Gulf war. The subsequent repercussions have also hit the other superpower, the former Soviet Union.

Thus, in the light of the continuous American threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, made under the pretext of an aircraft crash, with which Libya had no links, as clearly stated by Libyan officials, who have asserted their readiness to comply with the UN Security Council's call to cooperate with the investigation committees on this matter.

We would like to reassert here that in the light of these threats, which herald war, we would like to call upon Arab countries to adopt a firm and strong stance, thus making the American Administration understand that any aggression against Libya will be viewed as aggression

against the Arab nation as a whole, a matter which requires these countries to reexamine collectively their policies toward the new world order.

The American Administration is once again trying to remind us of something which we have been trying to forget and/or ignore, i.e. its policy of double standards. At the same time that it is trying to implement a UN Security Council resolution, and before even the ink is dry, and regardless of Libya's readiness to comply with the resolution, through threats and menaces there are now countless resolutions on the Palestinian problems which have been gathering dust in the UN archives, a matter which yet again furnishes further proof the non-existence of a real American intention to push through the peace process.

Therefore the U.S. Administration, through its threats against Libya, is aiming at provoking Arabs to the limit and at making them withdraw from the peace process—a matter which would leave Libya shouldering unilaterally the responsibility of preventing such a process from achieving its aims.

Algeria

Violence Erupts 24 Jan in Algiers

Shots Fired, Tear Gas Used at Mosque

LD2401155392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] We begin this news summary with a report on the atmosphere which prevailed today before and after the Friday prayers the in Kouba and Bab el-Oued quarters of the capital. Abderrahmane Drief gives us a voice report:

[Drief] The Friday prayers took place in a calm atmosphere today at the Bin Badis Mosque in Kouba, where the security forces surrounded the mosque without incident.

As for the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued, and as you already know, some shots were heard before the prayers, and tear gas was used. After the prayers, we went to the el-Sunna Mosque, which was still under siege at 1530, and we heard more tear gas rounds being fired.

However, we did not know what was precisely happening in the area under siege because we could not reach it.

Police Use Gunfire for Second Time

NC2401145692 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 24 (AFP)—Police and gendarmes opened fire for a second time Friday to disperse demonstrators outside the el-Sunna Mosque in the Bab el-Oued district of Algiers, witnesses said.

It was not immediately whether there were any casualties.

The shots came at the end of the main weekly prayers. Police had already used their guns earlier Friday in the same district.

Further on Warning Shots

LD2401143492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Gunshots were heard this afternoon in the vicinity of the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued, in Algiers. The gendarmerie command explained to APS on the phone that the shots were fired as a warning to individuals who were trying to occupy the road and install loudspeakers. The incident did not result in any casualties.

The same source said that the warned individuals retreated toward Climat de France District [northwest of Bab el-Oued], where they tried using children under 15 to carry out acts harming public security.

Further on Disturbances

LD2401192492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Calm prevails in Kouba District, while there were disturbances in Bab el-Oued. This was the prevailing atmosphere in these two districts, which are known to attract a great number of worshippers every Friday.

In Kouba the Friday prayers were observed calmly, as radio correspondent Abderrahmane Drief told us.

Bab el-Oued District was, on the other hand, the scene of disturbances which started before the Friday prayers, when a number of shots were heard. The situation worsened after the prayers. More details in this report by radio correspondent Rabat Halis:

[Halis] The Friday prayers at the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued witnessed great tension when security forces opened fire to prevent worshippers from gathering and performing the prayers in the alleys close the the mosque.

After the afternoon prayers, Bab el-Oued District was the scene for a gathering of a number of youths who proceeded from the el-Sunna Mosque to police headquarters in Bab el-Oued known as the Fifth Police Center.

According to eyewitnesses, the imam of a mosque near el-Atlas Hall asked the youths to head for the el-Sunna Mosque in order to lift what was, according to the aforementioned imam, the siege imposed on it.

Gunfire repeatedly broke out, and there were many gatherings of demonstrators, mostly youths, in the Bab el-Oued quarter and especially at the bus station. The demonstrators chanted many slogans, including Islamic State.

From where I am reporting to you I have not been able to determine whether the gunfire was pointed in the air or not. I also cannot say whether there were any victims. What is important is that the Bab el-Oued quarter has experienced acute tension, and we heard heavy fire from automatic weapons. At the moment it seems that calm has again returned, and we no longer hear the sound of gunfire.

Police Arrest 10 Foreign Journalists

NC2401145192 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 24 (AFP)—Algerian police arrested 12 journalists as security forces clamped down on Muslim fundamentalists during Friday prayers, a reliable source said. The journalists, 10 foreigners and two Algerians, were taken for questioning at the city's central police station and police took away the passports of the foreigners.

One of the journalists, a Frenchman working for a Paris radio station, was released after some hours. The others

detained were five Spaniards, working for EL PAIS and LA VANGUARDIA newspapers, four Turks including the correspondent of the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY, and two Algerians, one of whom works for the weekly L'EVENEMENT.

Police opened fire to disperse some 500 people outside one mosque in the capital on Friday as part of a major crackdown on the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

It was not immediately clear whether the detained journalists were subsequently released.

4 Spanish Journalists Expelled

NC2501063792 Paris AFP in English 2210 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 24 (AFP)—Four Spanish journalists, arrested outside a fundamentalist mosque where they had gone to cover the Friday prayers, have been told to leave the country, informed Spanish sources said.

They were picked up outside the Bin Badis Mosque in the southeast of the capital.

Special envoys Gustavo Catalan from EL MUNDO, Placido Garcia Planas from LA VANGUARDIA and Adolfo Lazaro, who had press accreditation, and a journalist from the INDEPENDANTE who was travelling on a tourist visa were released but told they would have to leave the country Saturday.

Earlier reports had spoken of the arrest of 12 journalists during the Friday prayers, 10 of them foreigners who were taken for questioning to the city's central police station.

'Calm' Prevails 24 Jan

LD2401212692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tonight the national police command reports that calm prevails over all parts of the country except for some minor incidents which have caused no human or material losses.

The same report indicates that the Algiers Province decree which banned prayers in the streets near mosques was respected today during Friday prayers.

Further on State Security Actions

FIS Tipaza Official Detained

LD2401233192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The National Gendarmier Command reports that an Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] bureau official in Zeralda, in Tipaza Province, was detained this evening because he displayed in several places the appeal of Abdelkader Hachani.

The national gendarmerie command reports that Cheikh Hachani was arrested on Wednesday at the request of the National Defense Ministry. Cheikh Hachani was charged with inciting mutiny in the ranks of the National People's Army.

In this climate, Cheikh Rabah Kebir, an FIS official of the political committee and for external relations, today called for caution and vigilance at the Ibn Badis Mosque in Kouba. The Friday prayers in Kouba were held in tranquillity, and calm also returned to Bab el-Oued after disturbances near the el-Sunna Mosque. [passage omitted]

The national gendarmerie command reports that some troublemakers have been apprehended and that a search is being conducted for others who attempted to incite minors, all under the age of 15, to anarchy and disturbances.

The command said that the security forces fired warning shots in Bab el-Oued and el-Harrach to disperse small groups which attempted to block the sidewalk and set up speakers.

The national gendarmerie command pointed out that sermons of a political nature were delivered at some places such as Sidi Moussa, Bou Haroun, and Ouled Aych, and that those who delivered them were immediately apprehended for advocating violence.

Court Sentences Three FIS Activists

LD2401164992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] A Bou Saada court this week sentenced three Islamic Salvation Front activists to six-month prison sentences and fined them 2,000 dinars. The province's security services arrested the three on 16 January and charged them with incitement to civil disobedience and disturbing public order.

Police Hunt Accused FIS Official

LD2501225192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] At 1600 today the official in charge of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Bureau in the Sidi Simiane commune, in Cherchell Province, shot (Ahmed Cherafi) with an automatic pistol. This is reported by APS, quoting sources close to the national gendarmerie headquarters.

According to APS the perpetrator of the crime fled in the direction of a nearby forest. He is being hunted by the gendarmerie.

Three EL-KHABAR Officials Released

LD2601064592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The officials from the EL-KHABAR newspaper—the director of publishing, the chief editor, and his deputy—were released yesterday evening after three days in detention. [passage omitted]

In today's issue EL-KHABAR said that its journalists learned before they left the courthouse yesterday evening that Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, head of the Islamic Salvation Front National Provisional Bureau, has been remanded in custody after appearing before the investigative magistrate with his lawyer. [passage omitted]

FIS' Aissani Takes Over Duties of Hachani

LD2401200592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] main headquarters in Algiers reports that Othmani Aissani, deputy chairman of the National Executive Bureau, has been charged with performing the duties of FIS executive bureau official Abdelkader Hachani, who was arrested on Wednesday.

FIS Source Denies Arrest of Aissani

LD2501111492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] News from the party arena: An Islamic Salvation Front source has denied the arrest of Mr. Othmani Aissani as was reported by AFP.

Another FIS source, however, told our radio that he could not confirm or deny this report.

Gendarmerie Command Denies Arrest

LD2501141992 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] It was learned today from the national gendarmerie command that Mr. Othmani Aissani, who has succeeded Mr. Abdelkader Hachani as head of the Islamic Salvation Front executive bureau, has not been arrested.

For their part, FIS officials denied to APS the report about the arrest of Mr. Aissani, bearing in mind the reports by a foreign news agency, citing an official at the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued who stated that Mr. Othmani Aissani had been arrested.

Aissani Seen in Jijel

LD2501154192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] A statement by the national gendarmerie denied that its services had yesterday apprehended Cheikh Othmani Aissani, who was appointed as the new chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front Provisional Executive Bureau after the arrest of Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani.

APS' correspondent in Jijel affirmed that Othmani Aissani was seen yesterday in Jijel traveling in his car.

FIS Reaction to Government Crackdown

Criticizes Higher State Council

NC2401153492 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 24 (AFP)—Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) spokesman Mohamed Said accused the new Algerian authorities on Friday of having nothing to offer the people "but death and desolation".

Speaking at weekly prayers at the Bin Badis Mosque at Kouba, in the southeastern suburbs of Algiers, Said said the High State Council which seized power in Algeria last week had "no programme, no credibility, and nothing to offer the people but death and desolation".

"The people have judged you to be bankrupt, you are losers", he addressed the council, to the acclaim of thousands of worshippers.

With large numbers of police and Army troops standing guard outside the mosque, Said warned that "Muslim soldiers should not fire on other Muslims" because "that would be against the precepts of Islam".

FIS external relations spokesman Rabah Kebir read out a statement at the Kouba Mosque protesting at the arrest Wednesday of the main FIS leader then still out of jail Abdelkader Hachani.

Worshippers at the Kouba Mosque later dispersed peacefully.

Rejects Support for Council

LD2601014992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] In its Communique No. 10, which was issued Saturday, the Islamic Salvation Front says that any person in the Front who agrees to support the so-called Higher State Council—as the communique states—will be considered to be colluding in a crime against the Algerian people and its will and freedom to opt for the Islamic undertaking [mashru'].

The communique also demands the release of the Front's political prisoners and the avoidance of provocations aimed at pushing the country into a whirlpool of peril and bloodshed.

Refuses Role in Consultative Council

LD2601085292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front has asserted in a statement signed by Mr. Rabeh Kebir, official in charge of FIS external relations, that any participation in the Consultative Council which the Higher State Council intends to set up from all political inclinations, will be viewed by it as an act of treason.

The same statement emphasized the need for the democratic process to continue.

Rejects Use of Violence

LD2701144192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front declared in a communique released last night that it rejects violence. The FIS intends to remain an Islamic political party operating within the law despite intimidation and provocations.

I am of course quoting the words of this communique.

Boudiaf Discusses Reasons for Return, Duties

LD2401195592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Statement by Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, made "today" for Paris TF-1 Television; place not given—recorded]

[Text] It is a week now since I returned to my homeland. I decided to return in order to help my country at a very difficult time in its history. I think that my return has created a positive reaction. I think that an increasing number of Algerians have regained their optimism and that they are facing up to the situation with unity and calm. Nationalism will prevail.

What are the priorities facing my work? The Algerian state must regain its authority. The Higher Security Council has taken and will take the necessary measures. The Algerian state exists; the law will be upheld. I would like to add here that as far a I am concerned I have for a long time been attached to democracy. I wish to tell Algerians that I will do my utmost to guarantee individual freedom and citizens' rights.

Algeria faces an acute economic and social crisis, and I need time to study files and meet officials. I will be putting forward tangible proposals at a suitable time. Algerians have expressed to me their sympathy and support; they ought to contribute to the process of reforms.

Algerians must restore their confidence in themselves and in their future. The weakness of the state encouraged external interference. I say to Algerians that all efforts will be made to restore Algeria's reputation and respect for Algeria.

Concluding this brief statement, I would like to salute the National People's Army and the security forces, which have been discharging their duty courageously and with perseverance. The Algerian Army is not an army of coups. It is a republican army.

As I said before, my hands remain extended to all Algerian men and women without exception. Long live Algeria.

State Council on Boudiaf Role, Party Dissolutions

LD2501212292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports highlighted in the national press stating that the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee might study the question of proposing Mohamed Boudiaf as a presidential candidate, APS approached the Higher State Council and managed to obtain the following information:

The president [as received] of the Higher State Council has no knowledge of such claims. It is known that Mr. Boudiaf, in returning to Algeria, responded to a national duty in a difficult period in the history of the country. Presidential elections do not rank as a priority of the hour.

As for the reports that APS managed to gather in the lobbies of the FLN Central Committee which said that Mr. Mehri gave the impression that measures will be taken to dissolve the FLN, APS managed to obtain the following explanation:

The Higher State Council, which respects the political plurality now established by the country's Constitution, does not intend to reexamine this democratic gain. Therefore, there are no measures to dissolve any party which is on record as being active within the framework of firm respect for constitutional and legal measures.

FLN Begins 'Emergency Meeting' 25 Jan

Mehri Defends Policies

LD2501140792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The proceedings of the emergency meeting of the National Liberation Front [FLN] started this morning in the capital. In view of the wave of protests and anger that emanated from the party's grass roots against the recent stands of the FLN leadership, observers expect changes in the party's leadership. Here is the report of the radio delegation to the Palais des Nations:

[Unidentified correspondent] First, I would like to say that the issue of the presence of the press, after having received a negative answer, was resolved later on and journalists were able to attend the opening session and listen to the speech of Secretary General Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri. It appears from Mr. Mehri's speech that there is an effort to clarify many issues which had been

subject to ambiguity and confusion. Mr. Mehri indicated that the country failed in this phase to move to what has been qualified as a democratic system. He explained the reasons by going back to the beginning of the introduction of the democratic process until the institution of the bodies that are currently running the country.

Mr. Mehri also explained the circumstances which led the FLN leadership to hold contacts with the Islamic Salvation Front and the Socialist Forces Front, and he asserted that the purpose of all this was due to three main points: the safeguarding of peace and the closing of all doors to violence; the safeguarding of national unity; and the adoption of dialogue between all sides to solve all problems.

Mr. Mehri also pointed out that the angry stands emanating from some members of the Central Committee stemmed from what was imputed to the current leadership, not to what it actually did. These stands took the form of a campaign which increased confusion and misunderstanding.

Mr. Mehri determined in his speech the issues for which clear stands must be taken. These are : first, the stand concerning the developments witnessed by the country. He reiterated in this respect his own stand on this by saying that the existing bodies do not emanate from the Constitution. Second, the issue of supporting the Higher State Council or not supporting it in what it did and what it will do in the future. He indicated that this matter can only be settled by the Central Committee. Third, the situation of the FLN. Will dialogue affect the survival of the FLN as a continuance of values and principles or as a force for gathering, dialogue, and contributing toward solutions to problems, or as an independent and reasonable political force—or will its existence be limited to its position as a cover for the ruling system only? Here, Mr. Mehri pointed out that this issue of survival used to be discussed ouside the Central Committee, and it would be better to discuss it inside it.

Indications of heated debates during this emergency session are clear. One of the members of the Central Committee commented behind the scenes concerning one of our questions about these debates by saying: We are going to give the issue [as heard] a good shake-up. Another member expressed astonishment at some stands which rushed to submit the name of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf as the FLN's candidate for presidential elections. In his opinion, the right stand is to help Boudiaf spare bloodshed and attain stability in the country. As for the question of candidacy, it is too early to be debated. There are, however, some who oppose this stand and who show so much enthusiasm about the idea of proposing the submission of Boudiaf's candidacy that one of the members of the Central Committee indicated that the idea was submitted to Mr. Mehri and that he has agreed to put it on the agenda.

There are rumors concerning another point being debated, namely the possibility of Mehri's resignation from the post of secretary general. However, the prevailing view so far is that the resignation can be debated only at the request of two-thirds of the members. Even so, it seems that Mehri is ready to meet the request should it be made. However, resignation in this case could lead to the collective resignation of some members of the Political Bureau, as claimed behind the scenes by one participant.

We come here to the issue of the possibility of dissolving the FLN. There is almost unanimity here about the view that the FLN cannot be dissolved because it is not the property of one person. Furthermore, it is not related to any regime but rather is history, a capital, and a reality [as heard]. Even if this sensitive issue is tackled, the matter can only be settled during the congress, which is an essential issue on the agenda as this session will debate the date of its convening.

We point out in our finish that most of the prominent figures of the FLN are present at this session except for a small number of the known personalities, including Chadli Bendjedid and Sid Ahmed Ghozali. We have been talking to you from the Palais des Nations.

Political Bureau, Central Committee Differ

LD2501205592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The emergency session of the National Liberation Front Central Committee opened today at the Club des Pins. The session was open, and the national and international press were allowed to attend. Hassan Benaouda reports:

[Benaouda] Ninety members entered their names on the list of those who wanted to intervene in the dialogue of the emergency session of the FLN Central Committee. Most of the interventions we listened to this evening welcomed and expressed support for the creation of the Higher State Council, under the chairmanship of Mohamed Boudiaf, and requested that the political stands of the party on all the issues to be debated emanate from the values and constants of the glorious November Revolution.

The Central Committee will determine its political stand at the end of the session. This was touched on by Abdelhamid Mehri in his speech; he said that the Political Bureau did not take a hostile stand vis-a-vis the Higher State Council, which is legal according to the Constitution. He said that the Central Committee has shouldered its responsibility in taking a political stand regarding the Higher State Council.

A question arises here concerning the nature of the reaction of the Political Bureau should the Central Committee adopt a stand contrary to what Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri said. The FLN secretary general acquainted the Central Committee with the details of contacts made by the Political Bureau with other parties. These were contacts only, not alliances, Mr. Mehri said. These

contacts are based on three axes: the need to provide security, respect for national unity, and support for dialogue.

In general, discussions revolved around the need to convene an extraordinary congress as soon as possible. We have heard from sources close to the Political Bureau that the date of the congress will be determined at the end of this session. The congress could take place within two months.

Support Noted for Higher State Council

LD2601011692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the first day of the FLN Central Committee emergency session were adjourned this evening. The afternoon session was characterized by many interventions, the details of which we will review with the radio team at the Palais des Nations in this report from Mohamed Chalouche.

[Begin Chalouche recording] The session is indeed extraordinary even in terms of the exceptions being made. When it was determined that the proceedings would take place on camera from the outset, journalists were allowed to attend the session's entire proceedings. Thus we were lucky enough to follow all the interventions made so far, most of which were characterized by heated discussions which sometimes took a personal tone. [passage omitted]

Generally speaking, it can be concluded from the substance of the interventions—around 20 have been made so far—that there is unanimity in supporting and backing the Higher State Council, in blessing Mohamed Boudiaf's return to the homeland, and in supporting him in his mission to reestablish stability in the country. Furthermore, one of the speakers demanded that a resolution on support for Boudiaf be passed. The person who made this proposal is a well-known personality, Ahmed Bencherif. He said wittily: The session was not supposed to continue for more than an hour, but what is important now is to take an immediate stand. In that he was referring to declaring support for Boudiaf and nothing else.

Among other interventions in the same context, we noted some vehement ['anifah] criticism, in strong terms, of the present FLN leadership, represented by the Political Bureau and the secretary general. The criticisms particularly targeted the secretary general's statements concerning the appointment of the Higher State Council and the contacts held with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. Among the stirring speeches in that context was that of Boualem Baki, who turned all his anger on Mehri and Mouloud Hamrouche, describing their recent statements and stands as serious transgressions, lies, and fabrications. This raised protests in the hall, leading Mehri to remark: It is not permissible to doubt intentions, particularly because we know each other. You were the ones who said that we had been negligent in making contacts with Islamic movements. I truthfully related whatever took place to everyone. He was referring to his contacts with the leaders of the FIS and FFS.

An opposing intervention drew attention by going against this trend of anger toward the present FLN leadership. It was that of (Salah Loucef), who attacked members of the Central Committee who had recently made statements hostile to the FLN leadership. He said: Some of those statements are contributing to the destruction of the Front. They sold villas and used the Front's property for personal ends.

We should also mention that in addition to the interventions to support the Higher State Council and to attack the current FLN leadership, there was a move in the corridors by 17 members demanding a withdrawal of confidence in the FLN leadership, as represented by the Political Bureau and the secretary general. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Discussion of Higher State Council

LD2601142992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 26 Jan 92

[Text] We now return to the debate of the Central Committee. As was pointed out earlier, the work of this session enters its second day while we wait to see the results and if clear stands are taken concerning the current situation in the country after the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid. Here is a review of this morning's session which we have just received from the radio team at the Palais des Nations:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] A sharp argument took place at the beginning of the morning session of the Central Committee on the method used by the newspaper ECH-CHAAB in reporting the first day's proceedings. This paper described some of the members as seasonal militants. Hedi Khdeiri and Lakhdari regarded this description as instructions given by the FLN leadership to the newspaper. The latter [FLN leadership] proposed that the debate should be suspended. There was an objection to this in the hall, and Mr. Mehri decided the issue by saying that the paper had not received any instructions, adding that to stop the debate is the prerogative of the Central Committee.

Accordingly, the general debate continued with the intervention of Ahmed Lounis, who proposed that the Higher State Council [HSC] and the Army be supported. He added that the issue of dealing with the new situation as far as the FLN is concerned is linked to drawing up a constitution which has clear outlines different from the 23 February 1989 Constitution, which, he said, did not spring from the will of the people.

As for the intervention of Salah Goudjil, it contained two basic points. The first is the domestic situation of the FLN leadership in particular and the FLN in general,

and the second, the FLN's stand, via its leadership, toward the current stage through which the country is passing.

As for the question of the powers given to the secretary general on the one hand and the Central Committee on the other hand, he said that the desired aim is to restore the powers of the Central Committee with regard to the question of taking decisions and stands which must be collective, as he said. As for the call to convene the party congress, Mr. Goudjil said that its preparation must take place in clear conditions. The important decisions should however revert to the Central Committee. As for the resignation of the president of the Republic and the setting up of the HSC, Goudjil said that the measures taken were taken to fill the vacuum and that they did not contravene the principles of the FLN because they came during an interim stage.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia's intervention began as he recalled the stages that the country had passed through after independence. He said that in 1962 the militants split into three parties, some who preferred continuity and regarded it as legitimacy and some who regarded opposition as legitimacy. The last, he said, were those who abandoned both. As for the new reality in the country, Messaadia said he considered this an initiative and that there is no other solution because, as he said, one cannot organize sound elections in a period of 45 days. Therefore, what happened deserves encouragement and support, he said. He also added that on the basis of the 1989 Constitution, the FLN had morally and legally left power. It should work to come up with an elected and responsible leadership to recover power through democratic means, and this requires thinking about the manner to prepare the congress. He also demanded that the Front's stand should be defined toward any current or a political movement.

Boualem Benhamouda, for his part, made a speech and said that there is a need to define the FLN's political moves or field of political action toward the current crisis. He called for a return first of all and as soon as possible to constitutional life which, he said, we should find in an elected president and elected parliament and a representative government which can be thrown out by parliament; and second, the need for or the inevitability of dialogue, as he said, to emerge by way of contacting other parties. As for the return of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, Benhamouda said it is inconceivable that the FLN should be expected to sign a blank sheet of paper or give total support. Why not? For two reasons: because Mr. Boudiaf has promised to put forward tangible proposals; and because the FLN did not give the former president of the Republic support. He used to be criticized at the sessions of the Central Committee. Benhamouda proposed convening the extraordinary congress at the end of April in view of the deep contradictions that emerged in the leadership and in view of the numerous political currents which are using the FLN as a target for the purpose of controlling the political arena. [end recording]

Forming New Political Bureau Possible

LD2601204792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The emergency session of the FLN Central Committee entered its second day today with discussions described as calm, coming in the wake of yesterday's heated meeting. Discussions are now centered on holding an extraordinary conference, probably in April. Rachida Hamadi reports:

[Hamadi] The FLN now stands at a crossroads. It must either find its way through the current situation, a matter which was the subject of discussion in tonight's session, or repudiate the current situation. That would mean its end.

The differences are deep, but views have become united behind the position that the preservation of the FLN depends on its unity.

As to the question of the dissolution of the Political Bureau because of its unilateral actions, although it was raised quite often, this was deferred for now, leaving the arena free for the idea of holding a conference at which a new Political Bureau would be chosen in a completely democratic manner.

The FLN is also agreed on the need for the unity of the grass roots with the leadership and the learning of lessons from the legislative elections.

Some members of the FLN said that the question of support for the president [as heard] of the Higher State Council should be cautious. The discussions are still continuing at this moment.

* Strength, Arms of Military Detailed

92AF0295B Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jan 92 p 6

[Article by J.I.: "Army Half Composed of Conscripts"]

[Text] With no less than 138,000 men, some 70,000 of whom are conscripts doing 18 months of mandatory service, the predominantly Soviet-equipped Algerian defense forces are among the largest in the Maghreb. They are often engaged in other than military tasks such as police duties and civic missions (public works projects). Also, the Algerian interior minister has a hefty 23,000-man gendarmerie that fields French equipment, such as light armored cars.

The 120,000-man Army has about 20 brigades, organized around 960 tanks and 1,600 armored vehicles. Two units—about 15,000 men—are specially trained for suppressing disorders (see LE MONDE of 1 January). The Air Force, with 12,000 men, has close to 250 warplanes, including MiG-23's and MiG-25's, and about 60 Soviet helicopters.

Stability Factor

The 6,000-man Navy has, in addition to patrol boats and coastal defense craft, four submarines (on a five-year renewable loan from Moscow) and three antisubmarine frigates.

Western military staffs believe that the National People's Army is a factor for stability in Algerian society. First, it has officers and specialists in fields essential to the country's economic life. Second, it participates in national development with its engineering units, which have been responsible for some spectacular public works projects. Finally, despite an ethnic, religious, and social composition as diverse—especially in the ranks of conscripts—as that of Algeria itself, in the past it has been hostile to Muslim fundamentalism.

* Former Minister Analyzes Political Events

92AF0295C Paris LE MONDE in French
14 Jan 92 p 6

[Interview with former Minister and Islamologist Mustapha Cherif by Henri Tincq in Rouen; date not given: "Neither Fundamentalism Nor Extremist Secularism"—first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction]

[Text] One participant in the seminar held in Rouen 10-11 January by the Association for Islam-Christianity Dialogue, Mr. Mustapha Cherif, is a religious man, an Islamologist trained in France by Mr. Jacques Berque. A former minister of higher education in the Hamrouche government, he was an FLN [National Liberation Front] party candidate in Miliana District.

[Tincq] How do you explain the fact that Islam has become such a political football in your country?

[Cherif] One must recall that Islam preserved the Algerian identity all through the colonial period. But over the last 30 years, in order to reinforce our history, we have put the accent on the state, and in so authoritarian a manner that we have marginalized what I call the spiritual values.

Today there is a violent reaction. In part due to the economic crisis, politicized Islam has done very well among the destitute, especially among unemployed youths. And as Western modernity has come to seem increasingly foreign and aggressive to us, this politicized Islam has become more archaic.

[Tincq] Do you now regret having allowed the democratic opening?

[Cherif] Absolutely not. To the contrary, it was something we had to do, something no one could ignore. This massive movement toward Islam of which I spoke is not something we can stem by repression. We preferred, as we did on economic reform, to pay the price right away, to let the religious movements express themselves freely rather than force them underground. Even today, I still think that democracy—that is to say, the citizens taking responsibility for themselves—is the only way we can escape from underdevelopment.

[Tincq] However, you lost the elections hands down....

[Cherif] An election is first of all a technique, and it was badly handled. Three million out of 13 million voted for the principal religious party, and look where we are. But responsibility for the current confusion in Algeria is shared and collective. There are democrats who still operate with the mindset of the single party, and there are clergymen who want to monopolize Islam. In reality, no one has a monopoly on either democracy or Islam.

Happy Medium

[Tincq] As an Islamologist, what lesson for the future would you draw from the current situation?

[Cherif] Islam appeals to both heart and head. It is religious and it is worldly. To build a society which incorporates the values of the spirit, which makes ethics a central principle, but which at the same time respects civil and individual liberties, that is the ideal "happy medium" of which the Koran speaks. We want neither a fundamentalism that mixes up the spiritual with the temporal, nor an extremist secularism that cuts them completely apart. Whatever the political vicissitudes to come, we must find this happy medium.

[Tincq] Is it possible to compare Algerian and Iranian Islam?

[Cherif] No. We do not have the same tradition as Iranian Shiism, which is theocratic. Algerian Islam is Sunni, i.e. it includes the democratic principle. On his death the Prophet did not name a successor and left it up to the community to designate one; that is what Sunnism is all about. So the historical tradition of Maghrebian Islam is one of moderation. As a crossroads of the Mediterranean world, it is open to dialogue with other cultures and has nothing to do with Middle Eastern fundamentalism.

[Tincq] What should France do?

[Cherif] You should absolutely respect our experience. We are not trying to find ourselves. We know who we are: Algerians, attached to our roots and at the same time eager for progress. In concrete terms, this means Algerians must unite, transcending their partisan positions, so that Algeria can remain faithful to itself while correcting the oversights of 30 years of single-party rule. The reforms launched in the last two years must endure.

[Tincq] You have implicated the West in the current situation. How deep is its responsibility?

[Cherif] It was exactly five centuries ago that Islam withdrew from Andalusia. Since that time, the Muslim has virtually disappeared from the cultural awareness of the West. He has rather been "expunged" from Western thought and science.

So, although sometimes we are going in the same direction, the rhetoric and practices of the West ignore the Muslim world, and attack it by means of stereotypes and unfounded prejudices. All the scandals that have been exploited since 1979, and the arrival of Khomeyni in Iran—the Rushdie affair, the Islamic scarf, and the subtle but increasingly flagrant racism—all this has besmirched us. It does not facilitate dialogue or better understanding between cultures. In this sense, the West bears a heavy responsibility.

I am not a reactionary or a romantic. I am only calling for an effort at objectivity. Between those who make apologies for religious fundamentalism and those who see it everywhere and denigrate it, my aim is objectivity. Objectivity is what one expects of intellectuals and scientists.

* Press Comments on Political Developments

92AF0295A Paris LE MONDE in French
14 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by special correspondent J. de B.: "Algerian Press Commentaries"]

[Text] Algiers—Perhaps the HEBDO LIBERE editorialist was not scribbling idly on the eve of the resignation of Mr. Chadli when he urged the political class "to come up with some new way to save the Algerian people." His conclusion: "If one of our calculating generals still has a human heart, let him give it to Algeria." A note of despair: "There is no principle of civility strong enough now to bring to the same table two sorts of Algerians who consider each other totally alien."

ALGERIE-ACTUALITE in its weekly edition discussed prospects for cohabitation among the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and other political formations, only to dismiss them "for lack of even minimal consensus on republican values." And to affirm: "The legal path would be therapeutic if the illness were benign. Here a surgical operation seems inevitable."

JEUDI D'ALGERIE agreed, lamenting that "only bad solutions are in sight, although some are more detestable than others." It discussed the possibility that "in some fashion or other the FIS (would be) deprived of its victory." The fear then would be "that when one least expects it, the young people of the slums, coming from nowhere and intoxicated with anger and bitterness, will surge anew into the streets and remind those who may have forgotten them of the lessons of October 1988."

Nightmare

After Mr. Chadli's resignation, the coaxings and warnings of the weeklies were quickly followed by the oftentimes awkward commentaries of the independent francophone dailies. The head of MATIN, in an editorial that in passing took a swipe at the "merchants of guilt," asserted that "while post-Chadli Algeria may not know exactly where it is going, it knows what it has left behind: a nightmare."

"Algeria deserves better than what its rulers or those seeking to come to power have offered to date," opines QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE. It admits nevertheless that "the current situation is only a new escalation of the hideous logic of confrontation which has been building up day after day, and of which June was only a timid prelude."

But ALGER REPUBLICAIN, the PC [Communist Party] organ, which had urged a boycott of the legislative elections, was about the only one bold enough to talk of "stabilization" within a framework of what its editor could only call "relative legality."

Shunning commentary, EL-MOUDJAHID, the organ of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party, filled its columns with communiques, statements, and official texts. And although the headline on page one was "Algeria Makes the Scene," it was only to remind readers who might have forgotten that Monday in Ziguinchor (Senegal) the national soccer team goes up against the Ivory Coast Elephants in the Africa Cup competition.

Libya

'Historic Proposal' Made To Eradicate Terrorism

LD2601161292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT
26 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned from knowledgeable sources in the People's Bureau for External Liaison that Libya has demonstrated every full, effective, and immediate response and cooperation with the letter of the [UN] secretary general in connection with the legal measures concerning the Pan American and UTA airliners.

Libya has emphasized to him its determination to fight international terrorism, and in confirmation of the fact that Libya is determined to shun terrorism, Libya has made a historic proposal which will take mankind into a new era and which will eradicate terrorism in all its forms, reasons, and encouragements. The secretary general has distributed the proposal to the member countries and asked for their agreement to convene a special session of the UN General Assembly to discuss this historic proposal.

Bureau Summons Security Council Members' Envoys

LD2601213492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT
26 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jan (JANA)—The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation this afternoon summoned the ambassadors of the following members of the Security Council: Russia, China, India, Morocco, Austria, Venezuela, Japan, and Belgium. The

ambassadors were handed letters from the brother leader of the revolution to their heads of state in connection with Security Council Resolution 731.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives UN Envoy Safronchuk

LD2601221492 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Vasiliy Safronchuk, the UN secretary general's envoy, made the following statement to JANA:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent, in English] How did you find Libya?

[Safronchuk, in English, fading into Arabic translation] [passage omitted] Now to my mission. I was sent by the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali, to deliver a message from the secretary general to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. I can say I am satisfied with my mission. I delivered the message. I was granted the privilege of meeting Col. al-Qadhdhafi, and I delivered the message to him. I am satisfied with the discussions we had.

You will certainly understand that before I report to the secretary general on the substance of the reaction of Col. al-Qadhdhafi and the (?essence) of the discussions I cannot go into details. I hope that the exchange of messages and the ensuing discussions will be productive. Thank you. [end recording]

The UN envoy left Tripoli later today and was seen off by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Economic Planning.

Receives Arab League Chief

NC2601171992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jan (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received this afternoon Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Tripoli, 'Abd-al-Majid said that he discussed with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi the Arab situation and Security Council Resolution 731. He added that he expressed, in the name of the Arab League, his appreciation for the resilience that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has demonstrated in dealing with the U.S.-British-French-Libyan crisis.

The secretary general noted that the league's position on this issue is well known and that it has been eager to contain the crisis since it began, a fact made evident in the Arab League Council's resolution on the issue.

The Arab League secretary general arrived in Tripoli last night from Marrakech, where he attended the Arab foreign ministers meetings two days ago.

Receives Arab Maghreb Union Envoy

LD2401151692 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 24 JANA/ARAB MAGHREB UNION—The leader of the revolution received the ambassador of the Arab Maghreb Union to the Great Jamahariyah in order to strengthen the development of the Union and consolidate the build-up of its institutions as a step towards the realisation of Arab unity.

Bureau Denies German Nuclear Shipment Accusation

LD2401212592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan (JANA)—Following a statement by the German Government spokesman on 22 January 1992 concerning the interception at Frankfurt airport of a consignment of nuclear materials in transit from the United States of America to Libya via Frankfurt, the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation summoned the German ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. It expressed to him the deep astonishment of the Libyan authorities at the statement by the German Government because it knows that the United States is maintaining a total economic boycott of Libya, and that it is impossible to send any cargo from the United States to Libya, particularly this type of cargo. He was also told that Libya has no interest in such activities and that the whole matter is no more than a total fabrication by Western intelligence to tarnish the reputation of the Jamahiriyah, especially in the present circumstances.

U.S. Concern Over Nuclear Projects 'Unfounded'

LD2501123892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1133 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli 25 Jan (JANA)—JANA's local affairs editor has described statements by Peter (?Ewing), the U.S. State Department's coordinator for the fight against terrorism—in which he asserted that the United States is very concerned with the possibility that Libya might hire a number of Russian nuclear scientists—as unfounded claims that fall within the framework of the campaign by imperialist circles against the Libyan Arab people. The editor added that the world has become accustomed to the reiteration of such claims which seek to mislead international public opinion and distort the Great Jamahiriyah's stands.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly and continuously reaffirmed that it is against the possession of weapons of destruction and that it has not [words indistinct] the programs of manufacturing atomic and chemical weapons. He said that the fact that U.S. officials continue to involve the name of the Great Jamahiriyah quite clearly reflects the extent of rancor and hatred against the Libyan people and the search for pretexts and excuses to strike against the the Libyan

people's achievements and obstruct its internal development. JANA's local affairs editor concluded: The Great Jamahiriyah is always concerned and committed to implementing the agreement banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and it calls on U.S. officials—if they are really anxious about the proliferation of nuclear weapons—to condemn the nuclear programs of Israel, which has thus far refused to sign the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby defying all international resolutions and the will of the international community.

ICO's Algabid Expresses Solidarity With Libya

LD2601220292 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Hamid Algabid, Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] general secretary, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr. Hamid Algabid reiterated the stand and solidarity of Muslims all over the world with the Libyan Arab people in their courageous opposition to the fabricated U.S. and British allegations.

Dr. Algabid said in a statement to JANA that his visit comes within the framework of consolidating cooperation relations between the ICO and the Great Jamahiriyah, and in particular following the recent Islamic summit in Dakar.

Mauritania

Reportage on Presidential Elections

President Claims Reelection

AB2501175692 Paris AFP in French 1724 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 Jan (AFP)—Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was reelected president of Mauritania today in the first round of elections, his entourage announced.

The president's campaign staff says that he could obtain between 57 and 61 percent of the votes in the first round and that therefore no second round would be necessary. According to the Interior Ministry, however, the outgoing president may score no more than 57 percent.

In the capital, the president came second with 53.366 of the vote against 55.128 percent for Mr. Ould Daddah, the half-brother of the first president of independent Mauritania who was overthrown by the military in 1978.

Police Raid Opposition; 20 Injured

LD2501213192 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Mauritanian President Ould Taya was reelected in the first free presidential elections in 10 years of military rule, making a second round unnecessary.

Rafael Martinez Durban, our special correspondent, reports that police burst into opposition headquarters and cleared the building as soon as the results were announced. About 20 people were injured in the clashes. [passage omitted]

President Wins; Opposition Rejects Results

LD2601223492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] There will be no second round of elections in Mauritania. President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has won with an absolute majority in the first round at the expense of the other three candidates. The opposition, however, has announced its rejection of the declared results. Said Brahim reports:

[Brahim] According to the results of the 50 constituencies out of 53 constituencies already declared, the current head of state, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, has won the presidential election, in which 50 percent of the voters participated. His opponents were candidates of the country's opposition.

Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya won 62.6 percent of the vote, while his principal opponent, Ahmed Ould Daddah, won 32.9 percent. The other two candidates won 4.3% of the vote. [figures as heard]

Following the announcement of the results, which decided the race in the first round, Nouakchott yesterday witnessed altercations between the supporters of the opposition leader, Sid'Ahmed Ould Daddah, and the security forces, who used tear gas. This resulted in 22 people being injured.

International observers affirmed that there were some administrative errors in the organization of the elections. It is very difficult, however, to pass a final judgement on them, according to German parliamentarian Klaus Kapler, who came to Nouakchott with a team of international observers.

These were the first plural presidential elections in Mauritania since the country's independence in 1960.

3 Reportedly Killed in Demonstrations

LD2601232192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] A curfew from 1900 to 0600 was imposed tonight in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, Mauritania following demonstrations in the Mauritanian capital which left at least three killed, according to informed sources in the Mauritanian capital.

The curfew comes 48 hours after the election of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya with 67 percent [figure as heard] of the total votes cast.

Nouakchott Reported 'Calm'

AB2701125892 Paris AFP in French 1207 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Jan (AFP)—The clashes that occurred in Nouadhibou, Mauritania's second city, yesterday between the police and opposition members after the 24 January presidential elections left two to four persons dead, according to unofficial sources and the opposition.

The progovernment newspaper HORIZONS stated this morning that there were two dead, and hospital sources added that these two persons were suffocated by tear gas. The opposition claimed, however, that four persons were killed, three of them—all black Mauritanians—by bullets. These sources say about 160 others were arrested during demonstrations in the city, a harbor city in the west of the country.

The Mauritanian capital of Nouakchott, where a curfew was imposed last night at 1900, has been calm since freedom of movement was restored this morning at 0600, and markets are functioning normally, according to observers who did not notice any special deployment of troops or police.

A curfew was imposed shortly after the serious incidents in Nouadhibou, whose governor was transferred last night.

Saddam Decorates War Heroes, Makes Speech

JN2601083492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Report on speech by President Saddam Husayn during a medals ceremony in Baghdad on 25 January]

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: In the lives of nations and peoples there are events that become implanted in history and which remain alive in the peoples' conscience as an eternal source of inspiration.

The president said: The July Revolution is such an event. For history, the nation, and the people, it is the mother of subsequent revolutions. The postrevolution developments are in some ways revolutions which have their own degrees, meanings, and peaks. They are revolutions inside the soul, against something rejected in life, and a formula for looking forward.

This came when President Saddam Husayn today awarded medals of valor to a number of July revolutionaries and one of the fighters in the Mother of Battles.

His excellency said: Had it not been for the July Revolution, all this glory, pride, and progress in all fields would not have occurred.

He added: Genuine revolutionaries do not consider commitment a burden. Basically, they would not have become revolutionaries had they not been committed to the cause of their nation and people.

The president said: The enemies' basic intention was not to remove Iraq's material and cultural accomplishments, but rather to push the Iraqis to powerlessness so that the Americans and their allies could control their fate, thus making them dead while they are still alive.

The medal ceremony was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president; and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the presidential office. The following is the text of the president's address:

In the lives of nations and peoples, and even in the lives of families and individuals, there are events that have become implanted in history and which remain alive in the people's consciousness for all time. These events and their great meanings remain a source of inspiration for the people. Other events are forgotten or are normal in the lives of nations, peoples, and families.

For the July revolutionaries, history, the nation, and the people, the July Revolution is the mother of subsequent revolutions. The postrevolution developments in Iraq are in some ways revolutions which have their own degrees, meanings, and peaks. However, they are revolutions inside the soul and against something that is rejected in life, and a formula for looking forward. This is because they are unparalleled. Therefore, when some youths accomplish something in the field of reconstruction, and it is said that they achieved this in record time, this expression is inaccurate. In reality, there is no record time by which we measure things, and there is no other case like Iraq, which rose again despite all that has happened. Let us take, for example, a country whose population is 18 million, and whose area and level of scientific and social progress, or backwardness, compared with the world's social, cultural, and economic standards, are similar to those of Iraq. If an act of aggression was carried out against such a country, would its people be able to rebuild with a degree of determination similar to or greater than that which they possessed before the war?

His excellency the president then qualified his remarks by saying: Even the person who warns of mistakes is mistaken. Before the onset of the war—even though it was not a war—I said that it would be an unparalleled showdown.

If there were a single country in the world that had experienced something to serve as a precedent for the Mother of Battles, then we could say that we accomplished this or that thing in record time. But because this is not the case, then what is proper is for us to say that we accomplished this in an exceptional manner, or in an exceptionally short period of time, etc.

Had it not been for the July Revolution, nothing of the glory, pride, and development attained in all walks of life would have been achieved. As for the July revolutionaries, they are the legitimate heirs to all subsequent revolutions [as received], meaning to the whole status of elevation and sublimation created within the minds and psyches, and also to the impact that this status left on various aspects of life, even if they were not directly involved in the minute details of this status. For them to be rightfully called legitimate heirs, there is a condition that must be met—that is, they must maintain vivid intellectual and spiritual contact with each and every development. They should not be detached from such a development. For them to be such legitimate heirs, it is sufficient to show intellectual, spiritual, and emotional involvement with such developments, regardless of how physically detached they are from them. This is a great honor for them. At the same time, this is a commitment which can also be seen as a burden if it were to be viewed in the context of conventional calculations and conventional thinking. I do not think, however, that genuine revolutionaries view commitment as a burden. This is because they would never have become revolutionaries in the first place had they not been committed to the cause of their nation and people out of a rejection of the status quo of that time. They had future aspirations and were committed to all that would satisfy people and their consciences, and to fighting the antitheses of all this.

May God salute the July revolutionaries and the men of the Mother of Battles as well.

Some people speak of the future as if it were hidden behind the horizon. As for the revolutionaries, the future is the present, the present moment, whereas ordinary people think of even the present as the future when their ability to interact and relate to it properly, in a fulfilling manner, fails them. As for revolutionaries, their tendency to view the present and the present moment as the future is proportionate to the contribution of their daily acts to the future spirit and to the future in its conventional meaning.

What you have seen at refineries, factories, and electricity plants is the future, while it is also the present. The objective of the whole plan was to prevent the present from building bridges to the future. It seems that the basic objective of this destructive plan was not to dismantle the material, cultural, and civilian accomplishments that Iraq had built with its sweat and funds, but rather to push the Iraqis to a status of helplessness and also to an awareness of this status through which the Americans, their allies, the Zionists, and their schemes control the fate of the Iraqis. Thus, the Iraqis are meant to be dead while they are alive, as is the situation in Egypt at the moment. Many of our people in Egypt, or millions of them, are alive and yet dead at the same time thanks to the new course followed by the rulers of Egypt in their relations with Zionism and the Americans. This is because they are aware of the ailment, yet they are incapable of pulling it out from between their ribs and keeping it away from the path they are walking.

For instance, they say that they wanted to dislodge the Saddam Husayn regime—to use their words—or Saddam Husayn's leadership, or Saddam Husayn himself, or however they may put it. Why then do they destroy a dam that would take six or seven years to rebuild even if (?an agreement was signed between them and Iraq immediately following the end of the aggression) if they are confident that Saddam and his comrades are finished? If that is the goal, why do they destroy a target whose usefulness extends beyond only a few days, and a target like the medicated cotton factory which is useful for all classes of Iraqis?

The target was the new spirit in Iraq. If the new spirit and the infrastructure are destroyed and the Iraqis are unable to cope, they will come to them and tell them: Well, now you are helpless women, or dependent females [walaya], to use an idiom of our Egyptian brothers. Let them be accursed. They would tell the Iraqis: You are now under our control and at our mercy, and we will ration life as well as bread for you. Come let us teach you how to lead your lives and instruct you in the science and education curricula that you have to set for your schools. Let us teach you how and what to work, and what is and what is not permissible.

They would also say: Let us tell you how large your army must be and what level of training it should acquire and what schools to attend in Iraq or abroad, etc.... This is to the extent that Iraq would be finished as a spirit, and it would become a lifeless body thrown in the street, with neither its family able to lift it nor others willing to take it away. Iraq would then become nothing but a land containing oil, which they themselves take and decide what to keep and what to leave for Iraq. They would also decide how the oil revenues would be spent. This is their goal. This has failed thanks to the Iraqis' resolve and determination to rebuild all that has been destroyed—not only part of it.

As for time, this is another mistake that media men and politicians make. For instance, it is incorrect to say that a certain building has been rebuilt in a year. In fact, it is less than a year. Reconstruction began in May, and May is still over four months away [as received]. Thus, we have achieved all that we have achieved in only eight months.

At this point, Anwar al-Hadithi [one of those awarded medals] said: Sir, as we toured refineries, the guide used to explain to us the damages and repairs, and how 94-km-long pipelines had been extended. I asked the director general: Does any one of you have any idea about how long it took to build the refineries? He said: Yes, three years to build installations to process gasoline and its derivatives, and three years to build the lubricants installations. This is recorded. I said: You have rebuilt the refineries, and repair takes more time than construction. Your month is equal to one year; you have done in six months what it took others six years to accomplish.

Al-Hadithi continued: Indeed, it is still less than a year, so it is not right to say that reconstruction has been completed in a year. Reconstruction did not begin at the beginning of the year; a year has not yet passed. The refinery has been rebuilt and the pipelines extended in only a few months. This is a miracle.

His excellency the president said: Of course, you are well aware that had all these pipes been manufactured and ready for use, they would have been set in place in less time than it took them to do so. However, some of these pipes had to be repaired. Faith is trust. That is why we sometimes see, even outside the framework of the injunctions of Almighty God the Most High that there are people who engage in what can be called magic. This might be magic. However, magic is useless to the recipient if he does not trust the magical work of the magician, even though the magician might trust his own magic. That is to say, the magical work of the magician neither benefits nor harms the recipient if he does not trust the magician's magic. Similarly, faith in God is trust. Consequently, the person who does not firmly believe that God exists cannot have faith.

The Westerners' problems lie in the trust existing between the leadership and the people. They sometimes say that it is impossible for anybody to obtain an X end result. However, the leadership says that this is untrue, that it is possible to obtain the X end result and that we trust the people. Once the people listen to such words or receive a program in this regard, their favorable response

becomes so strong that they obtain the X end result, which is impossible to obtain under ordinary circumstances. This mostly is what provoked them.

God be praised, this status continued. When we go to a plant and they tell us that its repair requires six months, we respond by saying: No, we want it to be repaired in two months. You are heroes, and we have immense trust in you. And indeed, the repair work is accomplished in two months. Sometimes the repairs are completed in a shorter period of time than the one specified in the directives they received.

This spirit has been bolstered within all the people who were engaged in the reconstruction effort. They now have greater trust in the future. Likewise, they now have greater trust in the directives which are turned into figures outside the framework of conventional means and methods.

Here Anwar al-Hadithi interjected: Their self-confidence was also enhanced. When I saw the power station in al-Dawrah, I saw something amazing, Mr. President. I had there seen the control panel burned in its entirety. To make things worse, they did not have the plans of this panel. The panel was rebuilt, however, even though there were no spare parts for this panel because those spare parts are not manufactured in Iraq. They reassembled the destroyed parts and used them to make serviceable parts. After reassembling the destroyed control panel, they manufactured a panel similar to it by using parts purchased from the local market and from the al-Shaykh 'Umar area. It is truly amazing.

One of the issues that the Ba'thists did not take notice of at the beginning was the fact that we were using the history of the Arabs and Muslims as a model. When you read Arab history you find that it is the history of jihad. That is the only thing we read. We did not read how a town was built in the era of this or that caliph. We read about jihad, fighting, and justice. It seems that the Ba'thists did not think that jihad was an ongoing process. Perhaps they thought that it ended when the revolution triumphed, that the old government had passed away and the new government had started, that we would encounter only simple problems which we would overcome once we established a state. They never imagined that as we grew older carrying the same principles, they [the enemies] would burden us with heavier counterburdens.

Even during al-Qadisiyah [Iraq-Iran war] they would quibble, saying that al-Qadisiyah had a parallel. However, in the Mother of Battles, they could not quibble and say it also had a parallel, because it had none. Therefore, all their scandals will be exposed because they did not imagine that we would stay alive. They said that these men were now terminated, that they could then bring in a new regime that would carry out their orders for 20 years or so and not be able to ask the simplest question such as: Do you want me to carry out all this thing or only part of it? They would just send their orders written on a piece of paper and he [the regime] would have to carry out these orders without uttering a word.

However, as this regime continues with its banner raised high, they will be exposing each others' shame. Everything will be exposed.

Saddam Addresses Military Awards Ceremony

JN2701085692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2108 GMT 26 Jan 92

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's address at a ceremony in which he "awarded medals of valor to a number of fighters, commanders, and officers from the brave armed forces and the brave Presidential Guard, and to a number of officers who are entrusted with the task of protecting the leader president and who participated in fighting the enemies and their agents in the great confrontation, the Mother of Battles," on 26 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] (?Let us begin with faith) [words indistinct] whenever your heart is filled with faith, this is (?patience). This means there is a link between man and his God. This is the beginning. Praise be to God, the Iraqis are believers, and their link with the God of heavens and earth is alive. Your most important pledge to me is a faithful military. Say: God willing, we will turn the unit, the so-and-so squadron, the so-and-so formation, the so-and-so artillery battalion which are under our command into a unit of real and faithful soldiers. People expect many good things from the faithful military in defense of the homeland and people. Because we are talking about armies, the military alone cannot carry out the duty. Neither can an unorganized faith carry out the duty we seek for the faithful men and people. The organized faith can achieve many major things, as happened with you. Therefore, the lesson of al-Qadisiyah was linked with the lesson of the Mother of Battles. The losses of a formation or unit with a real and faithful military—that is, the unit whose commanders can show the faith which will have positive effects on the fighters—will be few, and the record of these fighters will be proud.

We can make from all our Army [word indistinct]. Let us take two neighborly formations that received the same pressure from the enemy. The losses of one formation are less than the other. The reason is the differences [words indistinct] the commanders. The commander with more faith, even if his military skills are a little bit less than the other's, (?will have an advantage). In battles, faith—of course, with the existence of military skills—will have an advantage. However, the qualitative comparative differences among soldiers do not count much when faith exists in some of them. If we take 10 soldiers and find that the difference among them in terms of their military skills is 20 percent while the faith of one of them is 20 percent higher than the others, this soldier and his formation will be distinguished from the others. Why? This is because you received even the details of many of the instructions before

the withdrawal so as to reduce the effect of the air strikes—how to be alert for the enemy maneuver of exposing its units in front of you in order to drag you into a situation that will enable the enemy aircraft to destroy you, and how to act in such a situation. [Words indistinct] due to my supervision and my acquaintance with information, there was little to surprise you. In other words, there was little deviation from the framework of the central instructions.

So what remains? What remains is the enemy—just as one of the officers said: We did not see Americans. [Fa'idhan shi yizall? Zall anna al-'adu mithil ma qal ahad al-dubbat, qal ma shufna Amerkan]. He was talking about his brigade. But others saw them. However, as soon as they they opened fire on them, they would turn their tanks back and leave the place at maximum speed. If the brigade or the formation remained in its position and did not fall into the trap, this was considered a dangerous place. If it did fall into the trap, then communications between them and their air force were direct, because their air force, after they harmed our defense, taking into consideration that our defense was not effective in a retreat position due to circumstances of withdrawal—their planes flew over our units, because communications were immediate between the air and land units. In this way, they used to guide their air force, whether the helicopters or the other fighter planes, which were also flying continuously. They would harm our units. So the major differences are those of faith, with action as a supporting factor. This is because action is always required under difficult circumstances. Calm is involved in any action. Calm is not part of one's character, but it is necessitated by circumstances. Sometimes the commander should give an additional factor to his character. Even if calm is not an adequate part of his character, in difficult circumstances he should add it to his character as a kind of visible action with which he will be more effective.

So, brothers, I want—when you say we pledge to you, given that it is a brave men's pledge—everyone of those who fought in al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles to be an example of our great-grandfathers who go back 1,400 years and certainly beyond that. Everyone of you who fought has not relinquished his faith and from whom the enemy could not remove his faith is a brave man whose name is written in the message's register, taking into consideration that this type of fighter is living in an age of temptations. What the martyr of 1,400 years ago, under the banner of Islam, would lose from life is not as important as what the martyr in today's world loses. Even the wife in this age is not the wife of 1,400 years ago in terms of quality and devotion to her husband. I even discuss these examples with you in detail. Life today, after 1,400 years, with all the improvements that have been introduced in our contemporary age—even children, your children and those of your neighbors, don't you see them? They look prettier than we used to when we were children. They are very neat, clean, and well dressed. This applies to all these examples. Their food is different, their homes are different, the way they dress is different, what they drink is different, the wife is different, the son is different, the job is different, and the livelihood is different from the past.

Our forefathers remain a banner in front of us but not up to our level. However, I must tell you with firm conviction that you have joined the march. You have joined the march of the mujahidin who fought to uphold the banner of Islamic principles 1,400 years ago, more than 1,400 years ago. You see how great is your history, how great is its honor, how great is its effect. Is there anything on the level of what happened to you and against you? The shining links from the beginning until the end are a shining force in our history. Is there a stage that is similar to your stage in which you faced difficulties? We are not unfair to history, but I also say with firm conviction that it is absolutely unique. This is your position; you see how great it is. I do not mean that it is great in term of propaganda; I mean its greatness in God's eye, in history, in affecting your people and nation. The greatness of your nation does not stop on the borders of the Arab nation but extends to where the Islamic principles are pure in the hearts of the non-Arab Muslims.

May God give you the strength to protect you from imbalance. May God protect us all by preventing us from losing our balance before this great glory which you created. Your people are great and your Army is brave.

Convey our regards to your brothers, the fighters. We send special regards to certain people. And this is not from us; we learned this from the practices of our lord prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. As you know, when a prophet does something when Almighty God has a different opinion, God will rectify the matter. The Koranic verses give more than one example of this. The people of Badr have a place, the al-Muhajirin have a place, the al-Ansar have a place, the al-Muhajirin who first responded to the prophet Muhammad's order have a place, and the al-Muhajirin who followed the prophet later have a place. Therefore, convey my regards to the men who upheld their position from Kuwait [events] until the chapter of treason and treachery, with its disgrace, ended. Your glory and faith remained high.

First, these are men; convey my regards to them twice. Then, convey my regards one time to the men who lost their balance or missed the road of geography, life, or faith temporarily, and then, followed faith and the march—this is a lesson we learn from God. Do not convey my regards to anyone who is still without faith or who has not yet followed faith. Convey my regards to each family which is still teaching its sons values, without which, families, societies, and honor will be lost.

May God protect you, and may God's mercy be upon our martyrs. May God preserve your life.

Army Officers Arrested, Attempted Coup Foiled

LD2601172392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq has announced: The Iraqi regime has arrested a large number of high-ranking Army officers during the past two weeks to prevent a coup d'etat in that country. According to the report, Fadil al-Barrak, who was the former director of security, is among those arrested.

Iraqi opposition sources have also reported that Saddam, the head of the Iraqi regime, has issued a decree banning the carrying of arms by military personnel in Baghdad.

Baker Offers 'Compromise' on Settlement Issue

Shoval-Baker Meeting 'Constructive'

TA2501054592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last night offered a compromise on settlement in the territories, as part of a deal on Israel's request for $10 billion in loan guarantees. This is reported by Qol Yisra'el's Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

He quotes an American source as saying that at a meeting with Ambassador Zalman Shoval in Washington last night, Baker proposed that Israel complete the building already underway in the territories, but there would no additional construction.

An Israeli source told our correspondent that it was clear that any argument with the Administration would not be on the amount of the loan guarantees, only on the settlement issue. Israel would explain to the Americans that it would be impossible to set long-term targets for immigrant absorption without a clear budget.

Israel's request for $10 billion in loan guarantees was discussed yesterday in Washington. After the two-hour-long meeting, Ambassador Shoval said the two would meet again after Baker returned next weekend from a visit to Moscow and other European capitals. Shoval described the talk as constructive. He said Baker had told him that the Administration was fully committed to the principle of helping Israel in the humanitarian task of absorbing up to 1 million new immigrants.

Israel Cannot 'Publicly' Accept Proposal

TA2501102092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem this morning, in an initial reaction to Baker's statements, said that Israel could not publicly and officially accept the U.S. Administration's conditioning of the guarantees, especially not with an election campaign underway. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports:

Decisionmakers in Jerusalem were disappointed but not surprised by Secretary of State Baker's conditioning of the loan guarantees in his meeting with Ambassador Shoval.

Neither Prime Minister Yitzhaq SHamir, who was briefed over the phone by the ambassador last night on the latter's meeting with Baker, nor his spokesmen, have any intention of reacting before the end of the Shabbat. Nevertheless, political sources in Jerusalem this morning made it clear that the current Israeli Government could not accept Baker's conditions. Officials in Jerusalem this morning were less concerned about the economic and political repercussions of Baker's proposal, and more with its immediate ramifications for the domestic political scene two days before a crucial no-confidence vote in the Knesset, less than a month before the Likud Central Committee elects the party's candidate for prime minister, and approximately four months before the date on which Shamir would like to hold early elections. A senior political source in the capital said the Americans are undoubtedly fully aware of this timetable, and the position Baker presented to Shoval should, therefore, be seen as no more than an attempt to embarrass the Israeli Government—in its present composition—and the man standing at its head.

Officials in Jerusalem are comparing Baker's proposal to halt new building starts in the settlements with the proposal made by Senator Leahy, the head of the Senate Appropriations Committees, which stipulated that any sum invested in the settlements would be deducted from the total of the loan guarantees. The government was willing to discuss that formula with certain modifications.

Sources in Jerusalem said that in some ways Baker's proposal is better than Leahy's, because it does not involve any cuts in the guarantees. On the other hand, it is more difficult because it demands that Israel act against its principles regarding the settlements. Moreover, both proposals establish a dangerous precedent that Israel will have to face in the near future. They create an explicit link between Israel's political positions and economic aid from the United States. Baker's proposal also has wider political significance, because it comes on the eve of the multilateral talks in Moscow. Baker's statements imply that the United States has not accepted Israel's position, as presented this week by Transportation Minister Qatzav in Washington, that linking the guarantees and the settlements would only toughen the Arab position and hinder Israel's ability and readiness to make compromises.

In summary, however, it should be noted that in Jerusalem there is still hope that Israel can eventually reach some sort of compromise that will allow Israel to have the cake and eat it too.

Right-Wingers, Palestinians React

TA2501124992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Ze'evi and Ne'eman hastened this morning to call on the government to forgo the U.S. loan guarantees if they are made conditional on the freezing of settlements. MK Sarid [Citizens Rights Movement], on the other hand, demanded that the government freeze the settlements and issue a last minute reprieve for the new immigrants, who are the weakest members of the Israeli society, and save them from poverty and disgrace, as Sarid put it.

The Palestinians in the territories would like to examine the text of the U.S. proposal before officially reacting. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

If the condition only applies to settlements at new locations, then it is ridiculous. That was the reaction this

morning from Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation. If the condition applies to the construction of new buildings even in existing settlements, then it is both important and significant to us. The Palestinians are not willing to risk issuing an unequivocal reaction yet. They would first like to have the details of James Baker's proposal clarified. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that past experience has taught them to be suspicious of the U.S. conditions. She raised a few questions: Did the proposal also call for a halt in road construction? Did it stipulate a halt to construction in existing settlements? Did it also mandate an end to infrastructure development? All these questions remain. The members of the delegation noted that settlement activity continued after the Madrid conference. New settlements were established, and the construction drive has continued unabated.

At any rate, 'Ashrawi said, even under the second interpretation, which we would gladly accept, we would still have to see whether the United States is able to make sure its condition is implemented or whether the Israeli Government will continue settlement activity in a covert manner. The issue of settlement in the territories will be raised at any meeting, the Palestinian spokeswoman said, but she made it clear that the Palestinians, meaning the PLO, had still not decided whether they would participate in the multilateral talks in Moscow. Last Thursday, when discussing the guarantees issue, the Palestinian delegates made it clear that if the Americans could guarantee that the funds would not find their way to the territories, it was none of their business. We do not intervene in U.S. foreign policy, the delegates said.

The Palestinians are aware of the sensitivity of the issue, and even now they are not making it a condition for their participation in the process. At any rate, they are not planning to blow up the political process over the issue of whether Israel receives the loan guarantees. It should be noted that the Palestinian public has criticized the Palestinian delegation on that matter. The Palestinian public regards the continuation of the peace process while new settlements are being built as a capitulation by their leaders.

Other Reactions; Knesset To Hold Debate

TA2501195292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Our Knesset correspondent reports on the political reactions to the U.S. decision on the loan guarantees. Sara Doron, chairwoman of the Likud Knesset faction, said that relations based on trust are not achieved through dictates and an ultimatum can only endanger the achievements of the peace negotiations. Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss, the acting Alignment chairman, said that the U.S. proposal looks good because only the principle of territory for peace will end the conflict. [passage omitted covered in referent item] MAPAM [United Workers Party] MK Hayim Oron said that halting the building in the territories is a supreme Israeli interest and not a matter of caving in to U.S. pressure. Tehiya MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni said the moment of truth has arrived and if the prime minister announces an economic emergency and stops the Washington talks he will deserve the Knesset's vote of confidence on Monday. [passage omitted]

The Peace Now movement called on the Israeli Government not to make do with a freeze on new building starts but to stop the current building, thereby saving a great deal of money for the national coffers.

Ron Nahman, head of Ari'el's local council, blamed the left and Peace Now for being informers responsible for bringing about the U.S. hard line position.

The Knesset on Monday will hold a wide-ranging debate on the U.S. decision to condition the granting of loan guarantees for immigrant absorption on a freeze on new building starts in the territories.

Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, our Knesset correspondent, reports that it will be held within the framework of the debate on the no-confidence motions which five opposition factions have presented against the government. Our correspondent adds that the government will apparently win the Knesset's confidence in the vote.

Hanan 'Azran, our party affairs correspondent, adds that Deputy Ministers Eli'ezer Mizrahi and Avraham Werdiger will abstain in the vote on instruction of the Lubavitscher rebbe who is concerned that implementing autonomy will bring territorial concessions.

Loan Guarantees Discussion 'Just Starting'

TA2601075592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor says the discussion on the loan guarantees is only just starting. He hopes we will receive the guarantees and says the Americans are seeking a formula with which everybody can live. According to Meridor, not all the details of the U.S. proposal reported in the media are accurate. The justice minister added there is no logic to a distorted situation in which it will be possible to build in one place in Judaea and Samaria and impossible to do so in another.

On early elections, Minister Meridor said the Likud and the Labor Party may reach an agreement in the coming days.

Shamir Briefs Cabinet 27 Jan

TA2601123192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Telephone conversation between Roni Daniyel in the studio and Yo'el Nir at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Nir] The cabinet meeting is over. The atmosphere during the meeting was quite relaxed. The prime minister informed the ministers about Secretary of State

Baker's talk with Ambassador Shoval. He said that there is approval in fact—that there is a U.S. decision to give the guarantees. The prime minister said Israel was not required to come out with a clear statement in favor of freezing the settlements. Receipt of aid in the past was accompanied by qualifications, including economic ones. This time, too, there are qualifications, but there is no conditioning. The prime minister said there is no conditioning in principle, only qualifications. Minister Der'i asked the prime minister whether the early election has an impact on this issue. The prime minister answered that this issue indeed arose in the contacts with the United States, but the Americans said the guarantees are not at all linked to the elections.

[Daniyel] Did the prime minister specify the Americans' qualifications to the ministers?

[Nir] I assume so, although we do not know the exact qualifications yet. We only know that the main qualification concerns the new building starts in the territories.

[Daniyel] Several ministers are opposed to this U.S. condition, as we know.

[Nir] Yes. Most of the ministers who spoke today—Magen, Qatzav, Sciaki—came out against accepting U.S. dictates. They said the guarantees are a humanitarian issue and should not be linked to a political issue, such as settlements. Minister Qatzav, for example, claimed that settlement is a political issue that should be resolved in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, not in negotiations between Israel and the Americans.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 26 January adds: "Mr. Shamir defined the U.S. position on the settlement issue as qualifications and not as a condition for the guarantees. He expressed his opinion that the U.S. position is an opening position only, not a final U.S. ruling. The contacts with the United States will continue, the prime minister said, and it is too early to make decisions at this stage. The short discussion that ensued divided the ministers into two camps. One camp—including Ministers Qatzav, Sharon, and Magen—viewed the U.S. position as intolerable intervention in Israel's domestic affairs and as a dangerous precedent that should be rejected outright. In contrast, other ministers, including Olmert and Der'i, said that, in principle, there is no difference between the constant commitment Israel makes to the United States annually, not to invest the economic aid in the territories, and the conditions required for the receipt of guarantees, if those conditions are changed and softened." In a recording Olmert says: "The U.S. Administration has, to a certain extent, accepted Israel's position in principle that settlements will continue to be built these years, including during the negotiations process. The question now concerns the scope, and we shall discuss that." Olmert also said the condition about new housing starts is "an issue for negotiations."]

Shamir on 'Joint Effort' To Resolve Issue

TA2601161492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that a joint effort is currently being made by Israel and the United States to resolve the issue of the loan guarantees and that he was sure that this effort would succeed. Shamir was speaking at a conference of Jewish journalists in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Sarit Mikha'eli reports:

The gist of the message Prime Minister Shamir was interested in delivering to the Jewish journalists who have gathered here for what developed into a huge news conference is that an effort is being made to resolve the issue of the loan guarantees.

The prime minister saw two positive elements in the recent talks held in Washington. First, the United States reiterated its readiness to help Israel absorb the immigration wave from the former Soviet Union. Second, the United States understands that building and development in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el are a matter of principle.

[Begin Shamir recording, in English] The United States has reaffirmed its readiness to assist us in the unprecedented task of absorbing the large immigration from the Soviet Union and other countries. Two, the United States understands that for us, the building and development of all parts of Eretz Yisra'el is a matter of principle. We will now engage in a common effort to find a formula that will not contradict U.S. policy or this principle of ours. Further negotiations have to take place to find such a formula that could pave the way for the urgently needed guarantees. [end recording]

Shamir was also asked about early elections. He said that a decision on this issue will be made over the next few days. If the Likud decides that I should lead the party I will run for prime minister.

As for the settlement activity in the territories, the prime minister said, Israel should develop all parts of the country. This is our position without any exemption. Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are part of Eretz Yisra'el, and we hope to settle a multitude of Jews there.

Shamir commented on the multilateral talks due to begin in Moscow. The prime minister asserted that we have all the reasons to believe that the multilateral talks will succeed and that the bilateral talks will also have a successful conclusion. Shamir noted that the political process had originated in Jerusalem and that Israel was grateful to the United States for the push it had given the process. Without Israel's active participation, however, the process could not have been implemented, Shamir said. The prime minister added that many countries will participate in the multilateral talks in Moscow. This is also a direct result of the Israeli Government's May 1989 peace initiative, Shamir said, in which we called for an

improvement in relations between the countries in the region and an international effort to help solve the refugee problem.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 26 January, a similar report from the International Conference for Jewish Media in Jerusalem, broadcast later in the program, adds that Shamir said: "We have to avoid any misunderstandings. Israel and all those people who represent Israel are not talking and not speaking about any freeze of settlements. Please forget about it."]

Levi Hopes To Discuss Loans With Baker in Moscow

TA2501141892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi, who is visiting China, expressed the hope that he will have the opportunity of meeting Secretary of State Baker to discuss the loan guarantees when they attend the multilateral talks in Moscow next week. He said, however, that a meeting has not yet been finalized. Referring to the Moscow talks, Minister Levi said in a briefing to Israeli journalists accompanying him that it is a one-time opportunity, which could be the Middle East's finest hour. The very fact that representatives of the Arab states, including some which do not border on Israel, are coming is a historic turning point, Levi said. [passage omitted]

Levi Urges India To Establish Ties With Israel

TA2601083992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has called on India to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel in the coming days. Our correspondent in Beijing Arye Golan reports that at a news conference called by Minister Levi at the end of his visit to the PRC he asked an Indian journalist to print that it is about time for India to stop its discrimination against Israel and to establish full relations with it.

Earlier, the foreign minister had inaugurated the Israeli Embassy in Beijing. He removed the sign that had been posted on the building up to now—the Israeli Academy Representation—and replaced it with a plaque reading "Israel's Embassy" in Hebrew, Chinese, and English. Ze'ev Sufot is now Israel's ambassador to the PRC. The academic representation, which started working in Beijing in April 1990, served as a consulate in fact and issued visas to the Chinese who wanted to visit Israel.

Yesterday and this morning the foreign minister spoke with the Chinese vice premier and with his Chinese counterpart on expanding economic, scientific, and health relations between the two countries.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 26 January, in a report by Yosi 'Abadi on page 6, adds: "As part of the attempt to introduce real content into the resumption of relations with the PRC, in April El Al airline will introduce a flight route from Israel to Beijing, which will apparently be a stopover on its regular flights to Japan."]

Settlers Near Jordanian Border Evicted

TA2601182992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Members of the settlement of 'En Tamar, south of the Dead Sea, were evicted this afternoon from a site they had established just over the border with Jordan. Twenty-two families from the settlement had camped at the site in protest against the failure of the authorities to allocate them land on which to build a permanent settlement. Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon will meet with members of 'En Tamar next week in an effort to solve the problem.

4 Alleged Collaborators Killed in West Bank

NC2601141892 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 26 (AFP) - Four Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli occupation authorities have been killed by masked men on the West Bank, Palestinian sources reported Sunday.

Residents of the village of Kfar Ra'i told AFP that masked men, identifying themselves as members of the Revolutionary Security Organization, announced over loudspeakers that they had "executed" four people for collaboration.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the four men, whose bodies were discovered on a road in the village, had been tortured before being shot.

The victims were identified as Imad Martawan, 18, Nadir Naqib, 22, Nasir Hasan, 23, and Ra'id Abu-Rashid, 21.

Their deaths bring to 384 the number of alleged Palestinian collaborators to have been killed by fellow Arabs since the start of a Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in December, 1987, according to an unofficial count by AFP.

Palestinians Decide To Attend Moscow Talks

TA2701052092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinians have decided to participate in the Moscow talks. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that the PLO's approval for the delegation to leave for Moscow was received in Jerusalem earlier this morning. The delegates are now leaving for Amman by bus. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that at this point it is already clear that there will be problems in Moscow with regard to the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Our correspondent says that 'Ashrawi may have been

referring to the Palestinian demand to include representatives from East Jerusalem and from outside the territories in their delegation.

East Jerusalem, Diaspora Residents in Delegation

TA2701061592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegates are leaving for Amman this morning en route to Moscow, after receiving the PLO's approval earlier this morning. Our correspondent reports that a representative of East Jerusalem—apparently, Dr. Sari Nusaybah—and a representative from outside the territories—apparently, Dr. Anis al-Qasim—will be included in the delegation. The members of the delegation are departing for Moscow without any farewell ceremony, and each of them is traveling separately.

Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib has said that Palestinians who are already in the Russian capital may join the opening session in Moscow.

Delegates Depart for Amman

TA2701092492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The members of the Palestinian delegation left for Amman via the Allenby Bridge a short while ago. In Amman they are slated to hold consultations prior to continuing on their way to Moscow. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the delegation members include Zahirah Kamal, Ghassan al-Khatib, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Zakariya al-Agha. In Amman, the delegation will be joined by two East Jerusalem residents—Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah—as well as two diaspora Palestinians.

Abu-Jabir Heads Delegation to Moscow Talks

JN2501183292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] The Jordanian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, will leave Amman tomorrow to attend the multilateral conference.

The delegation includes Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah; Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i; Salih al-Kabariti, the Jordanian ambassador to Turkey; Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, the ambassador to Moscow; Talal al-Hasan, the ambassador to Belgium; Dr. Mundhir Haddadin; and Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Information Minister Views Talks

JN2501195892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1910 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A Jordanian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, will leave Amman for Moscow tomorrow to participate in the multilateral conference on the Middle East to be held on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, acting information minister and labor minister, stated that Jordan attaches importance to the structure of the multilateral conference, seen as coming closest to meeting the requirements for international participation in the peace process. This participation has always been an Arab demand for the achievement of international legitimacy through implementing the Security Council resolutions and achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that will contribute to stability and prosperity in the regional states and in the world.

Regarding the issue of the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, al-Kabariti hoped that the U.S. Government would refrain from giving Israel any support that would help it continue the illegitimate settlement process in the occupied Arab territories, because this would gravely endanger the whole peace process.

Delegation Departs for Washington 26 Jan

JN2601104792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1607 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the multilateral talks left Amman today for Moscow. The talks will be held in the Russian capital on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Jordanian delegation taking part in these negotiations is headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir. Before departure, Dr. Abu-Jabir spoke to journalists. He said:

[Begin Abu-Jabir recording] We hope to meet with all the concerned parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the parties involved in the efforts that have been going on since the Madrid conference to peacefully resolve this conflict. Naturally, we will meet in Moscow with a large number of relevant ministers from all parts of the world, including the Gulf region, the Maghreb Union, the European Community, Canada, and Japan, as well as the two cosponsors. We will explain the Arab issues, particularly those concerning us and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We, of course, respect and appreciate the views of all other Arab parties. We understand that each Arab party has its own priorities, and that these priorities dictate whether they will attend the conference or not.

I will not say that there will be issues resolved in that meeting. The meeting, as you know, seeks to organize the talks; an organizational meeting, in other words. I mean, there will be no negotiations during this meeting. We believe that this is a good opportunity to raise Jordanian issues and present the Palestine question, from A to Z, for international discussion. As you know, the meeting in Moscow is the nearest thing one can get to an international conference.

As you know, there are specific issues that will be raised in this conference, including disarmament, water, economic development, humanitarian issues such as the refugees, and so forth. The Jordanian delegation has, of course, prepared certain ideas. But, as I have said, these ideas are preliminary and will be raised for discussion. We will present them for the others to study and make them learn that we are well aware of what we are doing, and that Jordan has specific ideas on the entire peace process. [end recording]

Lower House Holds Session on Peace Talks

JN2601202792 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The lower house of parliament met in a closed session this evening to discuss developments in the peace process. The prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the cabinet ministers attended the parliament session.

The acting minister of information, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who is also the labor minister, said that deputies expressed their views on the peace process and made their inquiries as regards Jordan's participation in the peace talks.

The prime minister indicated in reply that Jordan's participation in the peace process is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace formula.

The prime minister also said that Jordan's participation was in line with an Arab trend to deal with efforts made in recent months. Jordan's participation in the process also came in light of regional and international changes which had their impact on the conditions of the nation.

The prime minister said that Jordan in dealing with the peace efforts was fully aware of the various aspects of the current phase and is committed to its long-held principles, which stipulate that any political settlement should secure restoration of Arab rights, an end to the Israeli occupation, and recognition of the Palestinians' rights on

its national soil, as well as the Palestinians' right to participate in the peace process.

On the multilateral talks, due to be held in Moscow, the prime minister said its framework was a formula close to an international conference, which has also been demanded by Jordan and which requires participation of Arab and international parties.

The prime minister said that Jordan has indicated to all parties that its participation in the meetings does not mean any change in its position.

House Condemns U.S. Position Against Libya

JN2601165992 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 26 Jan (PETRA)—The House of Representatives has declared its solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people, who are being exposed to an unjust campaign by the United States and its allies.

The house condemned the double-standard policy of dealing with states, and urged the Security Council to be a forum for right, justice, and the fair treatment of peoples, not a tool for aggression and political blackmail.

In a statement issued today, the house recalled that the United States had blown up an Iranian passenger plane and that Israel had also blown up a Libyan passenger plane over the Sinai, pointing out that the United States said nothing and has remained silent about that and every other Israeli aggression.

The following is the text of the statement:

The United States and its partners in the Western alliance are still continuing their aggressive, conspiratorial policy against the Arab peoples in particular and the Third World peoples in general. In order to serve their wicked goals, they have turned the Security Council into a tool for killing nations' aspirations, and their rights to self-determination and sovereignty over their homelands. The resolution the Security Council issued yesterday against fraternal Libya is the best evidence of that.

History is full of barbaric and terrorist acts, which are being practiced by the United States and its Western allies against states and peoples throughout the five continents.

Their aggression against fraternal Iraq and its people as well as U.S. actions in Panama and Grenada and its aggressions against Libya two years ago are living and tangible evidence of that.

The Libyan Government has honestly responded to all efforts to unveil facts about the crash of the PAN AM plane over Britain and the crash of the French plane. No one approves of attacks on passenger planes and the killing of innocent civilians.

Through its official positions and statements, the Libyan Government has demanded that justice be served and that the issue be referred to an international court. If the aim is to reveal facts, why then do the United States and Britain want to turn a judicial issue into political blackmail, the sole purpose of which is to justify a new premeditated aggression, as usual?

As the Jordanian House of Representatives announces its solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people, it reminds the United States that it blew up an Iranian passenger plane and that Israel also blew up an Libyan passenger plane over the Sinai. The United States said nothing, and remains silent about this and every other Israeli aggression.

The Jordanian House of Representatives condemns the double standard policy in dealing with states and also demands that the Security Council serve as a platform for right, justice, and fair treatment of peoples, and not as a tool for aggression and political blackmail.

House Statement Urges End to Iraq Blockade

JN2601170892 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1527 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 26 Jan (PETRA)—The House of Representatives has urged all Arab states, international organizations, and freedom-loving peoples to try to lift the blockade imposed on fraternal Iraq.

In a statement issued today on the first anniversary of the Gulf war, the house strongly condemned the continuation of the blockade against Arab and Muslim Iraq. It also stressed that this blockade violates the most basic human rights.

The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

These days mark one year since the unjust colonialist Western and Zionist aggression against fraternal Iraq.

At this time last year, the tyrannical forces of the 30-state alliance, led by the United States, launched the most savage onslaught in human history against a steadfast, garrisoned country with the aim of destroying its capabilities and civilization and preventing it from rising up and fulfilling its serious, positive role to serve the causes of our Arab nation and Muslim peoples.

In that unprecedented aggression, the United States and its allies have violated all international norms and human values under false pretexts, such as international legitimacy, the liberation of Kuwait, human rights, and democracy.

The true aims of the aggression and the intentions of those who carried it out were known to everyone from the very beginning. These aims and intentions, however, are now becoming even clearer by the maintenance of the unjust blockade against Arab and Muslim Iraq, and denial of food and medicine to its people.

There is no doubt that with its constant aggression, the United States seeks to subjugate the region and arrange it

in accordance with its tyrannical desire in a manner that allows it to expand its plunder of the region's wealth and control the resources of its people. It also wishes to protect the new regional role of the Zionist entity, which occupies Palestine, and strengthen its racist and expansionist trend. As has been the case for centuries, the United States is once again placing itself in a position that fully contradicts the interests of the Arab nation and the peoples of the Muslim world, and their aspirations for freedom, independence, and renaissance.

Observing the first anniversary of the U.S. and allied aggression against fraternal Iraq with bitterness and indignation, and out of loyalty to the will of the Jordanian people which it represents, the House of Representatives:

1. Reaffirms its condemnation of the aggression.

2. Strongly condemns the continuation of the blockade against Arab and Muslim Iraq, and stresses that this blockade violates the most basic human rights.

It further urges all Arab states, international organizations, and freedom-loving people to endeavor to end the blockade.

King Husayn Receives U.S. Jewish Delegation

JN2501190892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon members of the American Jewish Congress under Henry Siegman. At the meeting, his majesty reviewed the political situation in the region in light of the profound world changes over the past two years and their repercussions for the resumption of the peace process in the region. His majesty explained Jordan's views on the ongoing peace process and the results of its various stages.

In this regard, his majesty stressed the main points of Jordan's position and its understanding of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace that is based on international legitimacy. He explained that such a peace is a major objective of Jordanian foreign policy, and will pay dividends for all peoples in the area. His majesty also explained that Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories is based on outdated convictions. He said that if Israel adheres to these convictions, it will undermine the peace process and shatter the great hopes pinned on this last chance to achieve a lasting, comprehensive peace. He added that building settlements and practicing extremism are the biggest threats to this peace process. His majesty said that peace efforts cannot succeed if Israel persists in policies aimed at aborting these efforts. He added that only a just, comprehensive peace can be a lasting peace.

His majesty also affirmed that enabling the Palestinians to genuinely participate in the peace process expresses the concerned parties' sincere intentions toward achieving a just, comprehensive peace.

Mr. Siegman expressed his own appreciation and that of the delegation for his majesty's stands and Jordan's consistent position on peace since 1967. He expressed the hope that Jordan under his majesty would successfully overcome its problems, and that the peoples of the area would enjoy peace and stability.

During the meeting, his majesty responded to the delegation's questions on the various aspects of the peace process.

Earlier, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Siegman and his delegation. The deputy prime minister and transport minister as well as the foreign minister attended the meeting. They reviewed the latest Middle East developments and the outcome of the efforts to establish peace in the region, both concerning the bilateral talks that were held in Madrid and Washington, and the organizational multilateral conference that will be held in Moscow on Tuesday.

The delegation previously visited Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

'Positive Initiative' Seen in U.S. Loans Stand

JN2601094392 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jan 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "An Encouraging U.S. Sign"]

[Text] News from Washington and Tel Aviv, as well as statements attributed to some congressional leaders and Israeli officials, indicate that the U.S. secretary of state has told the Israeli ambassador in Washington that President George Bush intends to link the loan guarantees demanded by Israel to Jewish settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories.

This is considered a good sign on the part of the U.S. Administration, which has continued to declare that Jewish settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories is an obstacle to peace, but without adopting any policy or taking any practical step that would lend credibility to this U.S. political declaration.

Hence, we consider this news, which was received by the ultra-rightist Israelis with angry and hysterical statements, to be the first practical evidence of the U.S. Administration's determination to act on its declared position toward Israeli settlement activity. We also see it as a positive initiative demonstrating a tangible U.S. determination to use some of its political and financial leverage to push the peace process forward and overcome the major obstacles facing it, including settlement activities in the occupied territories.

We even consider such a position, which has not yet been officially declared by Washington, as a step expressing the courage and farsightedness of the makers of U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially since we know that such a position will trigger strong opposition to President Bush within some influential circles in the United

States. It may also start a strong political confrontation with Israel's extremist right-wing government in a year of presidential elections, which have their own complicated considerations and calculations.

However, it was clear to all parties that if Israel wins the $10 billion in loan guarantees, it will continue its feverish settlement activities at an even faster pace. This will create more obstacles to the peace process, and Zionist extremism will then win a grand prize and even an unprecedented encouragement—something which will undoubtedly undermine the credibility of the U.S. commitment to promoting the peace efforts, and shatter bets inside and outside the Arab world on a serious and effective U.S. role within the framework of the peace process.

Therefore, we commend such a U.S. stand, which we have often demanded, and in which we see a serious and tangible confirmation of Washington's continued commitment to its pledges vis-a-vis the peace process. We demand that President Bush's administration continue with this brave and determined position, which seeks to open a considerable opening in the Israeli wall of rejection which resists any possible progress along the road to peace. In the meantime, we hope that there will be no going back on this policy so that Israel will not win both settlements and billions of dollars, while all of us lose this unique opportunity for peace.

Position on Multilateral Talks Stated

NC2701133292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Suhayl Shammas, director general of the Foreign Ministry, has emphasized that Lebanon's stand on the multilateral talks is solid, adding that Lebanon and Syria have held close consultations on this subject. For reasons known to them, they have decided not to take part in these talks.

Following his meeting with President al-Hirawi today, Shammas said: Since there has been no tangible progress in the bilateral peace talks, our absence from the multilateral talks is inevitable. When we feel there is progress in the peace process, the Lebanese Government will undoubtedly reconsider its stand.

Army Reportedly Reinforces Positions in Tyre

NC2601110592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] After completing its deployment in seven villages in Tyre District and expanding its deployment in the village of Tayr Dibbah, where it replaced the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], the Lebanese Army continues to reinforce its positions and establish military posts.

The Army has established barriers at the entrances to the towns of 'Abbasiyah and Burj Rahhal, at the 'Abbasiyah-Dayr Qanun-al-Nahr triangle, at the entrance to al-Bazuriyah, and at the Wadi Jilu- 'Atshit-al-Bazuriyah triangle.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL sources have stated that the evacuation of UNIFIL positions in the areas in which the Army has deployed could take about two months. They indicated that some equipment and installations will be handed over to the Lebanese Army and will not be withdrawn.

Pro-Israeli Militia on Extending Security Zone

NC2401135392 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Jan 24 (AFP)—A pro-Israeli militia warned Friday it could extend the Israeli-controlled "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The threat came a day after the Swedish commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Lebanon protested to Israel against moves to divide the southern village of Rshaf.

"Today it's Rshaf. Tomorrow, we'll include Tibnin or Haris if need be for the imperatives of security. There are no geographic limits on us in our own country," the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said over its radio station, referring to southern Lebanese villages.

"We will mount military actions beyond the security zone or lay down barbed wire to ensure security in the zone and for its population, especially with the absence of the Lebanese state at the political and security levels."

The SLA and Israeli troops have strung barbed wire across Rshaf, a village on the edge of the zone. The militia controls one sector and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) the other.

The UNIFIL commander, Swedish General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, protested that the division of the village prevented the mobility of his peacekeepers, residents of Rshaf and Red Cross officials.

Two SLA fighters were killed in a bomb explosion inside the village on January 17.

The militia has accused UNIFIL of "failing to fulfill its mission to maintain peace and of allowing" anti-Israeli combatants to infiltrate into the "security zone," which is jointly patrolled by SLA and Israeli forces.

Israeli Forces Advance Toward UNIFIL

NC2601100092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports received from the south a short time ago, Israeli forces and Lahd militiamen, supported by helicopters, have been attacking the town of Yatar and its vicinity since dawn today. The towns of Yatar, Harish, and Sribbin are still being shelled. An enemy Israeli force, estimated to be 100-strong, has advanced toward Yatar and Haris and arrived in the town of Sribbin. The force now is 100 meters from the main road linking Kafra and Haris—close to the checkpoint operated by the Nepalese contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL].

We also have learned that fierce battles are raging in the area of Khallat al-Jabal and Jubayl near Haris. Other battles are taking place on another axis in the area of the (Mariniyin) forest near Yatar. All types of medium- and large-caliber weapons are being used in these clashes. Meanwhile, three enemy helicopters are raking the valleys and forests with gunfire. All UNIFIL forces have been put on general alert.

Violent clashes occurred in these towns between a group of resistance fighters and a group of Lahd militiamen last night. Meanwhile, Israeli military aircraft flew over the capital breaking the sound barrier at 1020 today.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0945 GMT on 26 January reports that there have been "violent" clashes around the town of Sribbin "between an Israeli commando unit and an armed group. The Israeli troops are chasing the gunmen, who are heading for Yatar and Haris under cover of intensive artillery bombardment using all types of weapons. The clash, which started at midnight, left an Israeli soldier and a gunman dead."]

Israeli Force Nears Sribbin, Takes Casualties

NC2601104692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the latest information, an Israeli force has reached the approaches to the town of Sribbin, positioned itself on a hill opposite the towns of Kafra and Yatar, and cut the main Kafra-Haris Road.

Resistance sources have reported that one enemy soldier was killed and four others wounded during the clashes that have taken place in a valley between the towns of Sribbin and Rshaf.

There is a mass exodus from the villages in the central sector in the south.

Resistance Statement on Developments in South

NC2601174492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Earlier today Hizballah claimed responsibility for an attack against enemy forces in the occupied south during which an Israeli soldier was killed and another was seriously wounded.

In a statement issued in Beirut this afternoon, the Islamic Resistance said its groups attacked an Israeli position near Bayt Lif at dawn today, causing a number of casualties in the enemy's ranks.

The statement said that resistance member later confronted an Israeli armored unit which was trying to advance outside the occupied strip. The statement noted that the clashes were continuing as of 1230.

SLA Fires at 'Terrorist Targets' Overnight

TA2701055092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] In south Lebanon, SLA [South Lebanese Army] gunners continued to fire intermittently overnight at terrorist targets.

Our reporter in the north says that the Hizballah organization called on residents of the Shiite villages north of the security zone to take up arms and to defend themselves against what they said was an unexpected strike by the Israel Army. Hundreds of Shiites are reported to have thrown up barricades in their villages in answer to the call. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] officers have been out in the area persuading them to return to their homes.

Iran

Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jallud

Arrives 23 Jan

LD2401210492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, was welcomed upon his arrival in Tehran yesterday evening. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud will hold talks with our country's officials today, Saturday.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2501165992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report which just reached us about a meeting between Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, a member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud conveyed the warmest greetings of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Explaining the views of that country's officials on world issues, he said: There was a time when speaking of negotiating with the Zionist regime was considered to be of no value, but today, unfortunately, some Arab countries' leaders boldly speak of negotiating with Israel. We believe that those negotiations are condemned to defeat. He also presented a report about the processes by which the recent Security Council resolution and U.S. threats against Libya developed.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Libyan Government for adopting revolutionary stands on the Palestinian issue, emphasized the need to seriously confront the regime occupying Jerusalem, and, in connection with U.S. threats against Libya, endorsed Libya's request to hand the matter over to an impartial international organization. Noting the need for an impartial international body to issue a ruling in this regard, he expressed the hope that with the support of the world's Islamic and justice-seeking popular forces, Libya's problems will be resolved.

Further on Talks

LD2601083892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jan (JANA)—Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday evening received Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The audience was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries, the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Scientific Research, and the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Tehran.

On the Iranian side it was attended by Vice President Dr. Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Deputy Foreign Minister Sheykholeslam, and the director of the president's office. During the meeting discussions took place on Arab and Islamic issues, as well as current international situations, in an atmosphere of understanding, friendship, and Islamic brotherhood. Views were identical on all issues.

Meets With Ahmad Khomeyni

LD2501171492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, a member of Libya's Revolution Command Council and his country's foreign minister, met today with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. Mr. Jallud referred to the conspiracies of world imperialism, especially the United States, against Libya, and he called for the support of Islamic countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, against these conspiracies. He emphasized the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to raise support for Libya.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke about the support of Islamic nations for Libya in the face of the U.S. military threats. After describing the defense of Muslims in the face of global arrogance's bid for hegemony as one of the inviolable principles of the line of the imam, he told the member of Libya's Revolution Command Council: The entire system and revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran backs and actively supports the interests of Muslims in the frontline of the struggle against threatening agents and the bullies of the international stage.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also described the hollow accusations of the United States about Libyan involvement in the crash of the U.S. aircraft as a shameless pretext, and said: The United States always prepares public opinion before its acts of aggression against other countries. Therefore, attributing the downing of the U.S. plane to Libya is first and foremost a shameless justification for future actions which will take the shape of an extensive military invasion. If it is a question of judging an ugly deed, the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. Navy over the Persian Gulf has, with good reason, still not been forgotten by public opinion. Why have the perpetrators of that great crime not been tried?

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moselmin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni concluded by emphasizing the importance of the expansion of ties and mutual cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya.

Holds Talks With Karrubi

LD2601165292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] At today's meeting between 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, and Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, the latest developments in Libya and the need for unity among Muslims to confront America's plots were reviewed.

During this meeting Mr. Jallud described the United States's objectives after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Persian Gulf war. He said: The United States intends to dominate the world. He added that he believes the talks by the Arabs and Palestinians with the Zionist enemy are treason against the aspirations of Palestine, and he added that the West and the United States want to punish us because of our support for the Islamic revolution and for Palestine. Another of their aims is to set up an international military system in which revolutionary countries will not participate.

Mr. Jallud also believes that the Security Council's resolution concerning Libya which was passed with United States's approval is contrary to the UN Charter. He called for unity among Islamic countries.

Next, Mr. Karrubi, pointing out that the United States's involvement can be detected wherever there is a conspiracy against Islam and Muslims, said: The United States becomes hostile to any country that is Muslim and resistant and that confronts the interests of imperialism. Therefore, it is natural for the United States to harbor enmity against Iran.

Mr. Karrubi pointed to the regional situation and the compromises of countries in the face of the Zionist regime. He said: When the majority of Islamic countries accept the policies and statements of the United States and go in abjection and humiliation to the negotiating table, where the Zionists are present in a position of strength, it is evident under these circumstances that countries standing against the United States's bullying and her interests will come under pressure from all sides. Our problem is that some of the leaders of Islamic countries follow the line of U.S. interests. It is because of this that Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, raised the question of pure Mohammaddan Islam and American Islam.

The Majles speaker declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Libya in the face of every kind of plot by arrogance.

Warns U.S. Against Possible Attack

LD2701092192 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—"In case of a U.S. attack on Libya, Libya will arm Arab masses and Islamic movements to counter the U.S. and its allies," said the visiting member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud here Sunday night.

Speaking in a press conference Jallud who arrived here Friday night added that the U.N. Security Council Resolution 731 is unjust and contrary to international regulations and U.N. Charter.

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution last Tuesday urging Libya to hand over two Libyans accused of involvement in blowing up a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie in Scotland in December 1988.

Jallud voiced Libya's readiness to cooperate with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali to clarify the facts. He stressed if the Security Council plans to investigate legal and judicial issues, it should take similar measures regarding the downing of Libyan, Iranian, Indian and Korean airplanes.

An Iranian passenger plane en route from Bandar-e 'Abbas, southern Iran, to Dubai was shot down by two missiles fired by a U.S. cruiser in June 1988. All its 290 passengers and crew members were killed.

Jallud said Libya has become a victim of U.S. plots against Islam and Arabs. President George Bush wants to take advantage of the Lockerbie incident to deviate the American public opinion from the domestic problems and economic crisis at the threshold of the presidential elections, he told reporters.

Accusing U.S. of masterminding conspiracy against Libya, he warned the West that the entire revolutionary world will confront the plot and the battle will spread to capitals of all Muslim states.

According to Jallud, Washington has launched a political, military and psychological war against Tripoli since 1990 and has exerted economic pressure on the country because of popular and Islamic nature of the Libyan system.

He said Libya did not expect the international community or the Security Council to ask Libya hand over the two suspects contrary to the Charter of the U.N.

He said the U.N. secretary general was looking for political ways to clarify facts about the issue.

IRNA on U.S. 'Propaganda' Over Arms Purchases

LD2501151692 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—CIA chief said earlier this week that Iran is contacting Western markets to buy nuclear and missile technology and indicated that the Iranian Government might turn to the former Soviet republics to get those items. The U.S. has recently launched out a propaganda campaign against Iran playing up the topic of arms purchases in a bid to create fear among the Persian Gulf states and prevent amicable relations between Iran and her Persian Gulf Arab neighbors. Another idea behind that propaganda war for the U.S. is to legitimize its continued physical presence in the region.

In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union the U.S. and NATO member states have dispatched a substantial portion of their armed forces to the Persian Gulf states including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other sheikhdoms. So the best excuse for the United States to justify its presence in the region under the present circumstances is to claim that Iran is beefing up its military, that it is becoming a nuclear power, that it engages in terrorist operations and what not.

The U.S. also intends to monopolise the military hardware market in the Middle East, and because rich Arab states are very good buyers of U.S. made weapons they can soon stockpile their arsenals by a frenzied purchasing from the United States.

Iran's unwillingness to restore relations with the United States and its refusal to sit with the U.S. envoys at the negotiating table has apparently enraged the Americans. One purpose of the U.S. behind their virulent propaganda against Iran is to distance China, Japan and North Korea from Iran so that the Islamic government might eventually agree to giving certain concessions to the United States and to sitting for talks with the Americans.